FPI

PICTORIAL Love Stories

No. 22

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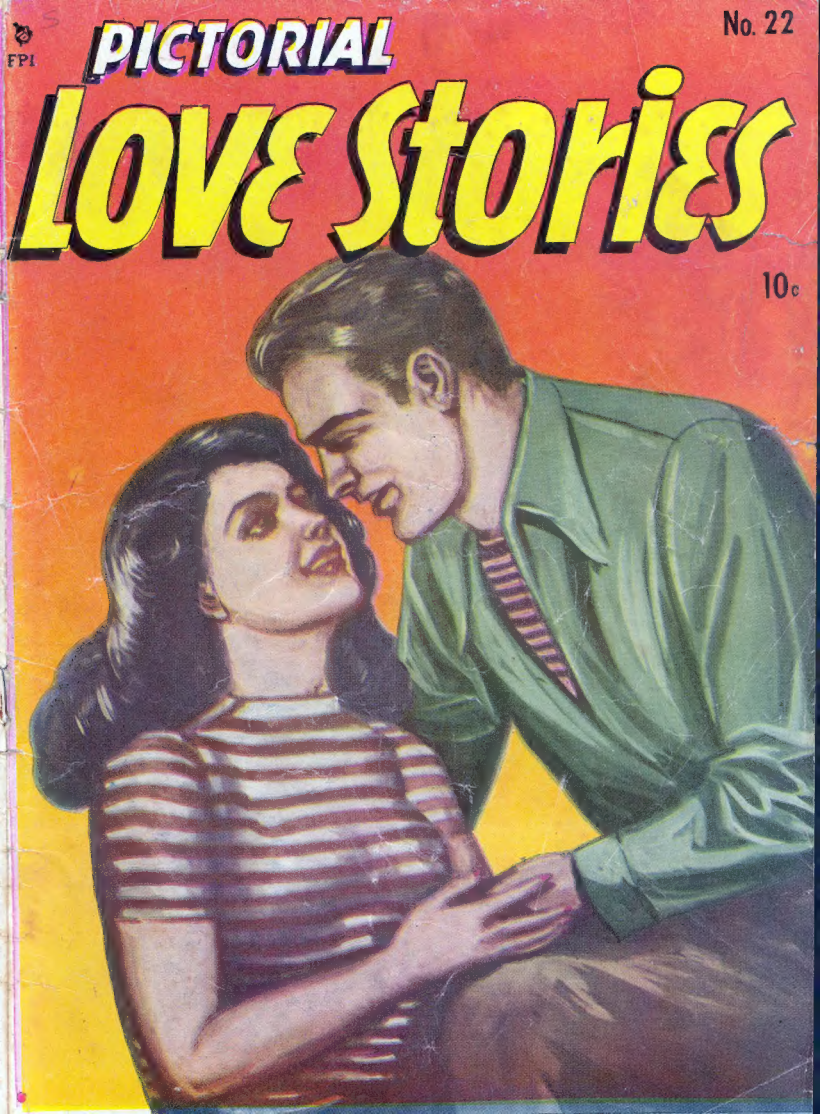

Romance on Review

MR. and Mrs. Brown had a daughter. Her name was Helen. Helen had a boy friend. His name was Harold. Harold had one terrible night with the Browns. This is what happened.

They dragged the condemned man into the parlor. After he had seated himself in an armchair, Mrs. Brown smiled sweetly, Helen squeezed his hand, and Mr. Brown belched. Mr. Brown, it seems, had a bad case of gas. Harold had a bad case of fright. He did not know which he preferred. Death in the electric chair, or Mr. Brown for a father-in-law. Nevertheless he faced the family bravely. Harold wasn't a coward. He simply didn't know any better.

Sweet little Helen was the first to break the awkward silence.

"I've told you so much about Harold," she said. "You could hardly know him any better."

Mr. Brown waved a chubby hand.

"That, my dear," he replied, "remains to be seen. Your young man looks bright enough from where I'm standing, but maybe I need glasses."

Harold twisted in his chair. He was already a nervous wreck.

"Gee—I've been looking forward to meeting you," he lied. "Helen has often told me what a swell family she has."

But Mr. Brown was not impressed by this salami. It was sliced too thin.

"Young man," he continued, "have you asked for my daughter's hand, or was that *her* idea?"

"Yes sir," remarked Harold. "I've come to ask for Helen's hand."

"Oh—then you wish to marry her?

"Don't look now—but I think you're right."

* * * * *

MR. BROWN coughed awkwardly and looked at his wife.

"He has a sense of humor," he remarked. "Make a note of it."

Mrs. Brown looked at Helen. Helen looked at Mr Brown. Mr. Brown looked at Harold, and Harold looked sick.

"Gee," said their prospective son-in-law, "I hope you don't have any objections to me."

Dear little Helen thought it was time to come to her boy friend's defense.

"Gosh, dad," she moaned, "I love Harold, and Harold loves me."

"Oh nuts."

Harold shuddered.

"Who said that?" he wanted to know.

But Mr. Brown ignored him.

"I don't wish to seem too severe," he went on, "but Helen must marry a man who can support us — er—ahem — I mean — support *her* in the style to which she has been accustomed."

Mrs. Brown chimed in for the first time since the inquisition began.

"Good Heavens!" she exploded, "I hope Harold earns more than that."

Mr. Brown nearly choked.

"Quiet, Matilda," he whispered, "before the chump changes his mind."

But Harold played ignorant. This wasn't too hard for Harold.

"Gee," he cooed, "every time I flash my lamps on Helen's kisser my ticker does a tap dance."

Helen grinned at her father.

"You see," she said, "I love Harold, and Harold loves me."

But still Mr. Brown was not impressed. His idea of love was the dollar sign.

"Now Harold—what do you do for a living?"

"I'm a salesman."

"What do you sell?"

"Electric mousetraps."

Mr. Brown grinned foolishly. He had never heard of electric mousetraps. But he knew a mouse when he saw one. And he didn't need opera glasses to see Harold.

"How's business?" he wanted to know.

"Terrific," replied Harold, "but it'll pick up."

Mr. Brown was coming along fine. He was getting more bewildered by the minute.

"How's that again?" he inquired.

"Only yesterday," replied Harold, "I received a five dollar raise."

Mr. Brown rubbed his greedy hands together.

"Is that so?" he beamed "And how much are you making now?"

"Twenty dollars a week."

* * * * *

MRS. BROWN was horrified. Her husband was flabbergasted, and Helen blushed.

"Good lord, young man," exclaimed the lady of the house. "do you expect my daughter to marry you on twenty dollars a week? That isn't enough to feed the goldfish."

"But I haven't got any goldfish."

Mr. Brown was fit to be tied.

"And you haven't got Helen either," he roared. "And you never will have her. Not on that kind of birdseed." *CONTINUED ON LAST PAGE*

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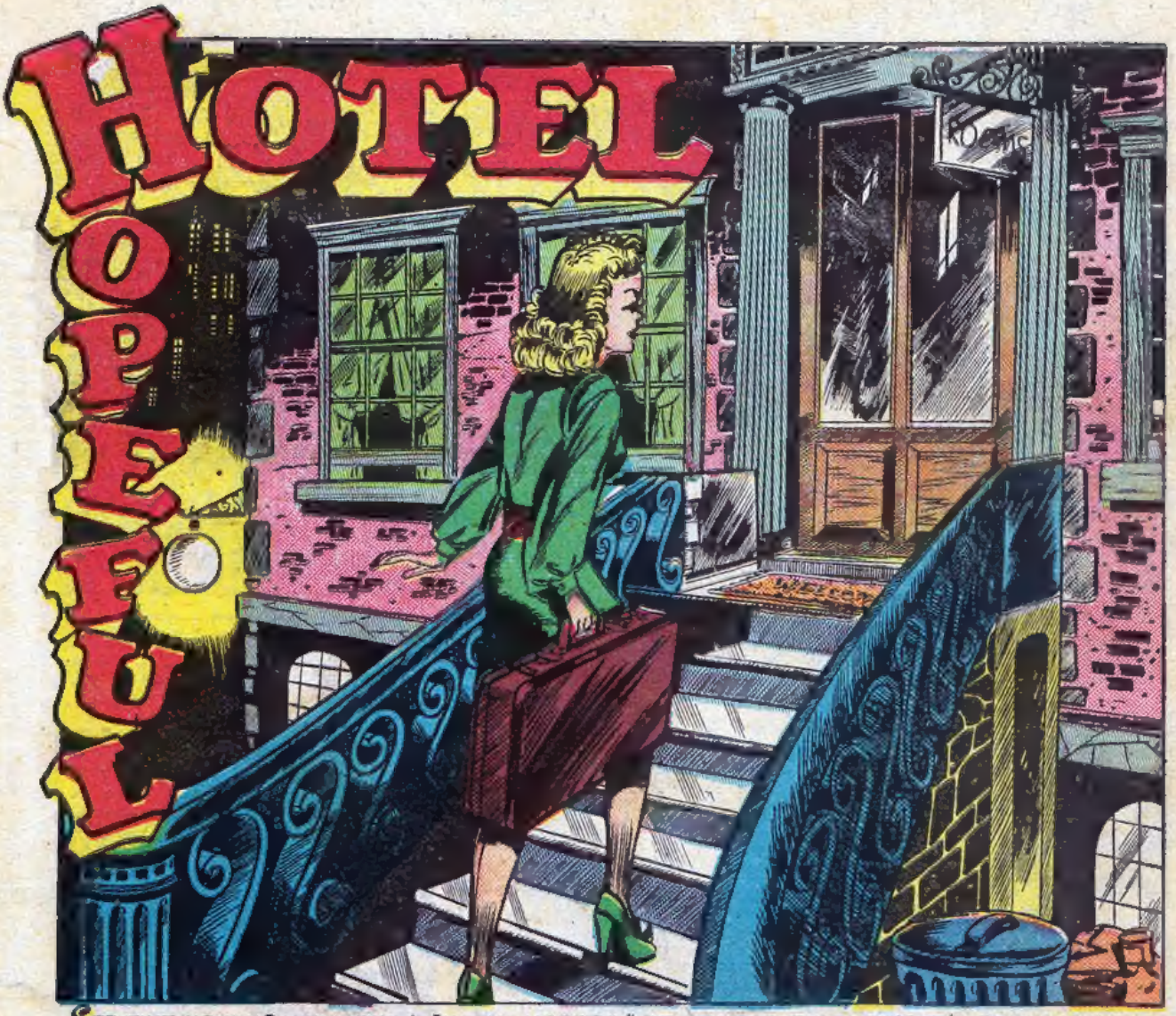
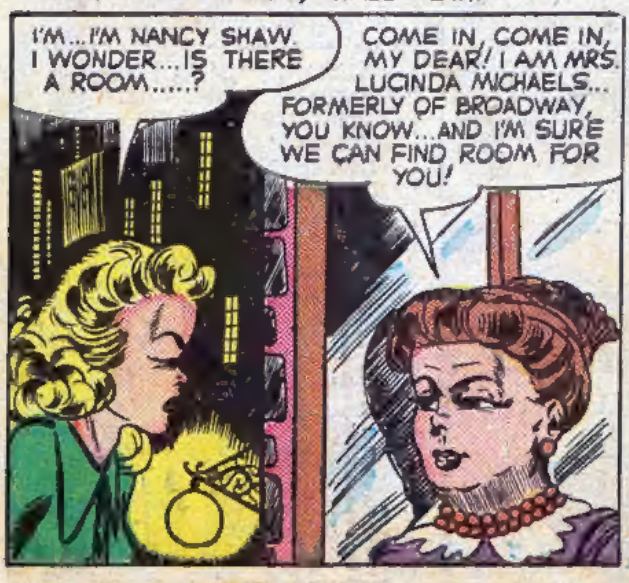


SEE THAT HOUSE? WELL, THAT'S "HOTEL HOPEFUL." OF COURSE, THAT ISN'T IT'S REAL NAME, BUT THAT'S WHAT IT'S INHABITANTS CALL IT. "HOTEL HOPEFUL" IS MRS. LUCINDA MICHAEL'S BOARDING HOUSE FOR YOUNG LADIES, SITUATED ON A SIDE STREET IN OUR BIGGEST CITY. TO THIS HOUSE, YEAR AFTER YEAR COME GIRLS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, SEEKING THEIR FORTUNE IN THE BIG TOWN. SOME OF THEM FIND SUCCESS AND LEAVE HERE TO GO ON TO HAPPINESS AND FAME. OTHERS LEAVE TOO... BROKEN HEARTED, SOME TO WANDER UNKNOWN AND UNHAPPY, OTHERS TO RETURN TO THE LITTLE TOWNS THEY NEVER SHOULD HAVE LEFT. BUT LOOK... THERE'S A YOUNG LADY ENTERING NOW! LET'S FOLLOW HER INSIDE, SHALL WE...?


I'M...I'M NANCY SHAW. I WONDER...IS THERE A ROOM.....?
COME IN, COME IN, MY DEAR! I AM MRS. LUCINDA MICHAELS... FORMERLY OF BROADWAY, YOU KNOW...AND I'M SURE WE CAN FIND ROOM FOR YOU!

WHEN WE'RE FULL HERE, WE JUST DOUBLE YOU UP WITH ONE OF THE OTHER GIRLS. COME NOW... YOU MUST MEET THEM ALL!
OH, THANK YOU SO MUCH MRS. MICHAELS!

GIRLS, MEET OUR NEW MEMBER, NANCY SHAW! NOW, INTRODUCE YOURSELVES!
HI! I'M BETTY KANE!
CHERRY HARRINGTON... AT YOUR SERVICE!
I'M BARBARA BAILEY!
I'M DIANE PARKER, NANCY... AND THERE'S SOMETHING YOU OUGHT TO KNOW...
NOBODY EVER CALLS OUR GRACIOUS HOSTESS HERE MRS. MICHAELS. WE CALL HER AUNT MIKE AND SHE LOVES IT!
SURE, SHE DOES!
NOW, YOU GIRLS STOP JOSHING! I WANT TO KNOW WHO'S GOING TO VOLUNTEER TO DOUBLE UP WITH NANCY?
I'LL TAKE HER! I'VE BEEN ALONE FOR WEEKS SO IT'S MY TURN... THAT IS, IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH NANCY.
OH, I'M GLAD... IT'S AWFULLY NICE OF YOU, DIANE...
WELL, THEN, I'M OFF TO BED IT'S LATE AND I'D ADVISE YOU ALL TO DO THE SAME! SLEEP PRESERVES BEAUTY, YOU KNOW!
WHAT A LOT OF PRETTY GIRLS, DIANE! WHO ARE THEY?
THAT'S OUR HALL OF FAME, HONEY... ALL THE GIRLS WHO HAVE LIVED HERE AND THEN BECAME FAMOUS. SEE, THAT'S PAT CARR, THE MODEL, AND MARY MONTAGUE, WHO'S STARRING ON BROADWAY... YOU'LL RECOGNIZE THEM ALL!
JUST THINK... THEY ALL LIVED IN THIS HOUSE! BUT WHO'S THIS ONE DIANE? SHE LOOKS FAMILIAR ...BUT I DON'T QUITE PLACE HER...
THAT'S CANDY BRENT. SHE USED TO BE... WELL IT'S A LONG STORY. COME UP TO OUR ROOM AND I'LL TELL YOU THE STORY WHILE WE GET READY FOR BED.
MY, IT'S A NICE ROOM ISN'T IT?
SURE IS... AND I'VE BEEN HERE FOR YEARS. I'M THE OLDEST MEMBER OF THE HOTEL HOPEFUL.... AND STILL HOPING. CANDY BRENT ONCE LIVED HERE. SHE WAS MY ROOMMATE, TOO.
BUT WHO IS SHE, DIANE? I DON'T KNOW THE NAME.
WELL, CANDY WAS A TALL BEAUTY FROM THE TALL CORN COUNTRY. SHE WAS A NICE KID, MAYBE A LITTLE TOO ANXIOUS FOR THE GLAMOROUS LIFE BUT SWEET AND KIND. SHE WAS A PRETTY GOOD SINGER TOO, AND I WAS REHEARSING IN A SHOW CALLED "GIRL TIME", A FLOP IT TURNED OUT... SO I TOOK CANDY TO SEE THE BOSS.
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THE BOSS WAS LOU MARTIN, REMEMBER HIM? HE'S GONE NOW. FADED OUT. BUT AT THE TIME HE WAS PRODUCING AND DIRECTING "GIRL TIME"....
...AND THEN LOVE CAME MY WAY, LOVE CAME TO STAY....
SHE SINGS OKAY, DOESN'T SHE, MR MARTIN?
MMMM... FINE! GOOD LOOKING KID, TOO!
ALRIGHT, CANDY... YOU'RE HIRED! IT'S UNUSUAL TO HIRE AN INEXPERIENCED GIRL, BUT I'M A MAN WHO KNOWS TALENT WHEN I SEE IT!
OH, MR. MARTIN... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU!
WELL, EVERYTHING SEEMED TO BE GOING FINE. CANDY COULD DANCE PRETTY WELL TOO, SO WE BOTH WERE PUT INTO THE INDIAN DANCE WHERE THE STAR, VIOLA VIVIAN, WAS SUPPOSED TO KILL HERSELF BECAUSE OF A BROKEN HEART...
COME ON, GIRLS... MORE LIFE! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AN INDIAN PRINCESS' HANDMAIDENS AND YOU'RE HELPING HER KILL HERSELF! TRY TO LOOK EXCITED!
EXCITED! WE'VE REHEARSED THIS FOR SIX WEEKS!
I LOVE EVERY MINUTE OF IT!
LOOK OUT FOR THAT CHARACTER, HONEY... HE'S A REAL WOLF!
GOSH, HE SEEMS VERY NICE TO ME!
ALRIGHT, GIRLS INTO REHEARSAL CLOTHES. WE'LL TRY MISS VIVIAN'S INDIAN NUMBER!
SURE, EVERYTHING WAS GOING FINE THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED THAT I'D BEEN AFRAID OF SINCE THAT FIRST DAY....
WELL, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I'VE BEEN WAITING TWENTY MINUTES
OH, DIANE, I'VE BEEN TALKING TO MR. MARTIN AND GUESS WHAT! HE WANTS TO TAKE ME OUT TO ALL THE BEST PLACES, SO I'LL BE SEEN BY THE RIGHT PEOPLE!
OH, OH! THAT ROUTINE, HUH? LISTEN, CANDY... IT ISN'T TRUE THAT ALL MEN IN SHOW BUSINESS ARE WOLVES... IN FACT MOST OF THEM ARE THE NICEST GUYS ON EARTH. BUT THERE ARE NO-GOODS IN EVERY GAME, AND I'M TELLING YOU LOU MARTIN IS ONE OF THEM!
OH, DIANE, THAT'S SILLY! HE'S BEEN VERY NICE TO ME! BESIDES, I HAVE TO MEET THE RIGHT PEOPLE IF I WANT TO GET AHEAD, DON'T I?
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BUT DIANE, WHAT WAS SO BAD ABOUT HER GOING OUT WITH LOU MARTIN? MY GOODNESS SHE WAS OLD ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF HERSELF, WASN'T SHE?
IT ISN'T THAT, NANCY A GIRL MAY BE SMART AND PERFECTLY CAPABLE, BUT SHE NEVER KNOWS WHAT KIND OF TERRIBLE SITUATION SHE CAN GET INTO BY ASSOCIATING WITH A HEEL. YOU'LL SEE WHEN I TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED TO CANDY....
OF COURSE, I NEVER WENT OUT WITH MARTIN AND CANDY. HE CERTAINLY DIDN'T WANT ME ALONG.. BUT CANDY TOLD ME ALL ABOUT IT AS I GOT THE STORY, HE MUST HAVE REALLY GIVEN HER AN AWFUL WHIRL..
HE TOOK HER TO ALL THE BEST PLACES...AT LEAST, THE MOST EXPENSIVE. FINALLY THEIR NAMES BEGAN TO BE LINKED IN THE GOSSIP COLUMNS AND THEN I REALLY BEGAN TO WORRY!
PROGRAM
THEATRE
AND AT LAST, CANDY TOLD ME WHAT I'D BEEN DREADING TO HEAR...WHAT I KNEW MEANT THAT MARTIN WAS THE COMPLETE SKUNK!
DIANE! HE WANTS TO MARRY ME! HE SAID IF WE'D BECOME ENGAGED HE'D MAKE ME A STAR
OH, NO...NOT THAT! CANDY, HONEY, THAT'S THE OLDEST LINE IN THE WORLD! AND ANOTHER THING.. VIOLA VIVIAN HAS BEEN SEEING YOUR NAMES IN THE PAPERS. SHE CONSIDERS MARTIN HER PERSONAL PROPERTY... AND SHE CAN BE PLENTY MEAN!

IT WAS NO USE! MARTIN HAD PLENTY OF CHARM AND HE USED ALL OF IT ON POOR CANDY. SHE THOUGHT HE WAS PERFECT. AND THEN TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, JUST AFTER OUR LAST DRESS REHEARSAL....

CANDY, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE SPOT OF YOUR OWN, TO SING A SONG JACK, WE'LL HAVE TO CUT A COUPLE OF MINUTES OF VIOLA'S COMEDY BIT IN THE SECOND ACT...

ACT I

I HEARD THAT, LOU! YOU'LL CUT MY NUMBER OVER MY DEAD BODY!

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN PLAY AROUND WITH THIS FRESH KID BEHIND MY BACK, AND THEN LET HER STEAL PART OF MY TIME ON TOP OF IT, DO YOU! WELL I'M THE STAR OF THIS SHOW AND EITHER SHE GOES OR I DO!

BUT, VIOLA, I CAN'T FIRE HER! WE OPEN TOMORROW! I PROMISE NOT TO GIVE HER A SPOT OF HER OWN BUT I CAN'T FIRE HER!

VIOLA HAD MARTIN WHERE SHE WANTED HIM, ALRIGHT.. BUT THE LOOK HE SHOT AFTER HER GAVE ME A COLD CHILL! HOW HE HATED THAT WOMAN!

ALRIGHT, BUT KEEP THAT LITTLE HICK IN THE CHORUS WHERE SHE BELONGS!

LOU... I'M SORRY...IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF ME...

NEVER MIND, KID! SOMEDAY I'LL FIX THAT...

BUT AS WE LEFT THE THEATRE A FEW MINUTES LATER, MARTIN RUSHED UP TO CANDY, ALL SMILES. I FELT SOMETHING WAS WRONG BUT I HAD NO IDEA WHAT WAS TO COME LATER...

CANDY, I'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA! YOU KNOW THE SPOT WHERE VIOLA GRABS THE FAKE SPEAR AND COMMITS SUICIDE? WELL, I'VE GOT A WAY YOU CAN HELP TO MAKE IT TEN TIMES MORE EFFECTIVE!

BUT, LOU, WHY SHOULD I HELP HER? I HATE HER! THAT MEAN...

HONEY, DO IT FOR ME. IF THIS SHOW IS A SUCCESS, IT MEANS PLENTY TO ME! I'LL BE BIG ENOUGH TO DO AS I PLEASE.... THEN I CAN STAR **YOU** IN MY NEXT SHOW! PLEASE...FOR ME!

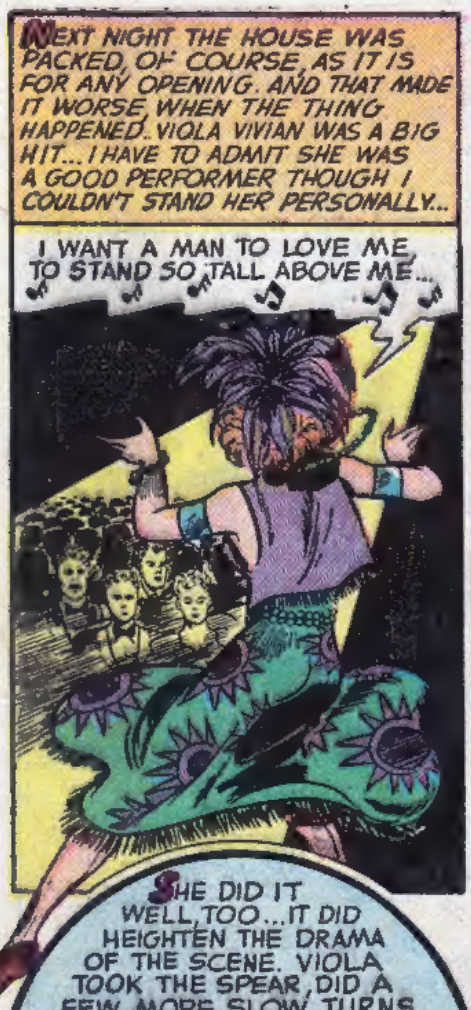
WELL, ALRIGHT! WHAT DO I DO?

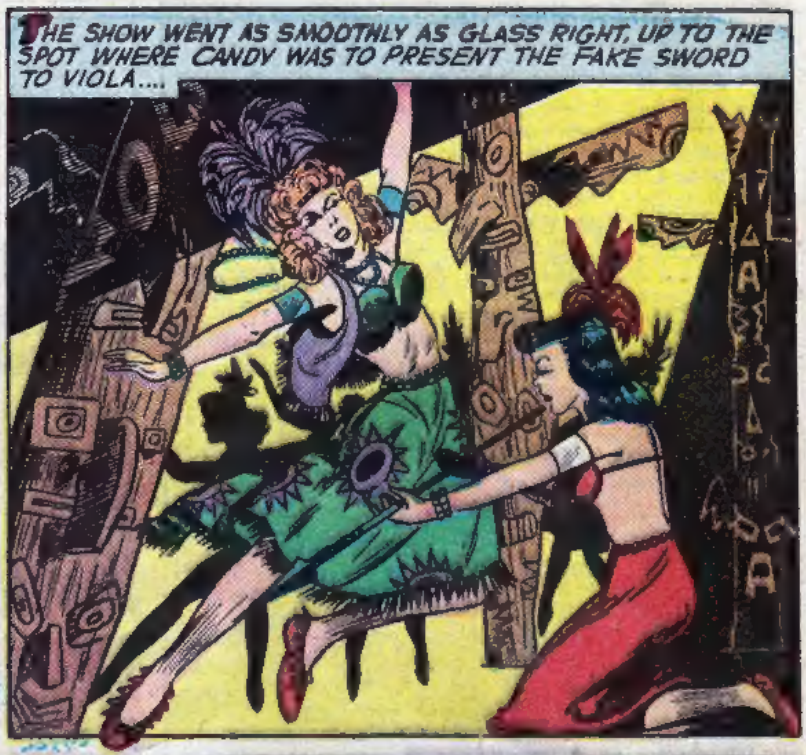
WELL, THE FAKE SPEAR WILL BE IN THE WINGS, RIGHT OFF THERE. INSTEAD OF VIOLA GETTING IT HERSELF **YOU** BRING IT TO HER, SLOWLY, CRYING... CAN'T YOU SEE THE DRAMA OF IT? THE MAID, THE LOVING PRINCESS, YET HANDING HER THE VERY INSTRUMENT OF DEATH!

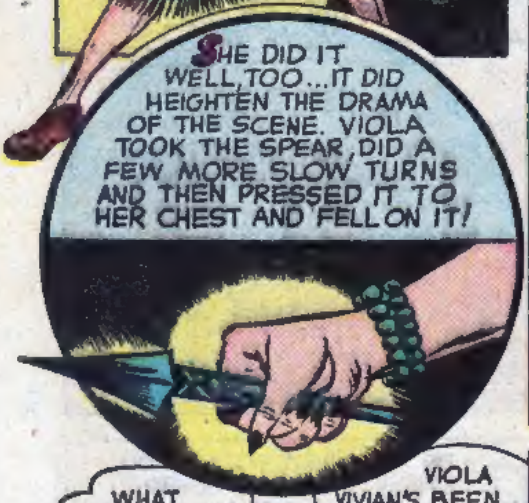
IF YOU SAY SO, LOU, I'LL DO IT FOR YOU

I HEARD WHAT HE TOLD YOU, CANDY. SOMETHING SMELLS BAD ABOUT THE WHOLE THING! I DON'T KNOW JUST WHAT, BUT...

OH, YOU'RE SO SUSPICIOUS! IN FACT, IT'S A GOOD IDEA!


NEXT NIGHT THE HOUSE WAS PACKED, OF COURSE, AS IT IS FOR ANY OPENING. AND THAT MADE IT WORSE WHEN THE THING HAPPENED. VIOLA VIVIAN WAS A BIG HIT... I HAVE TO ADMIT SHE WAS A GOOD PERFORMER THOUGH I COULDN'T STAND HER PERSONALLY...
I WANT A MAN TO LOVE ME TO STAND SO TALL ABOVE ME...


THE SHOW WENT AS SMOOTHLY AS GLASS RIGHT UP TO THE SPOT WHERE CANDY WAS TO PRESENT THE FAKE SWORD TO VIOLA....

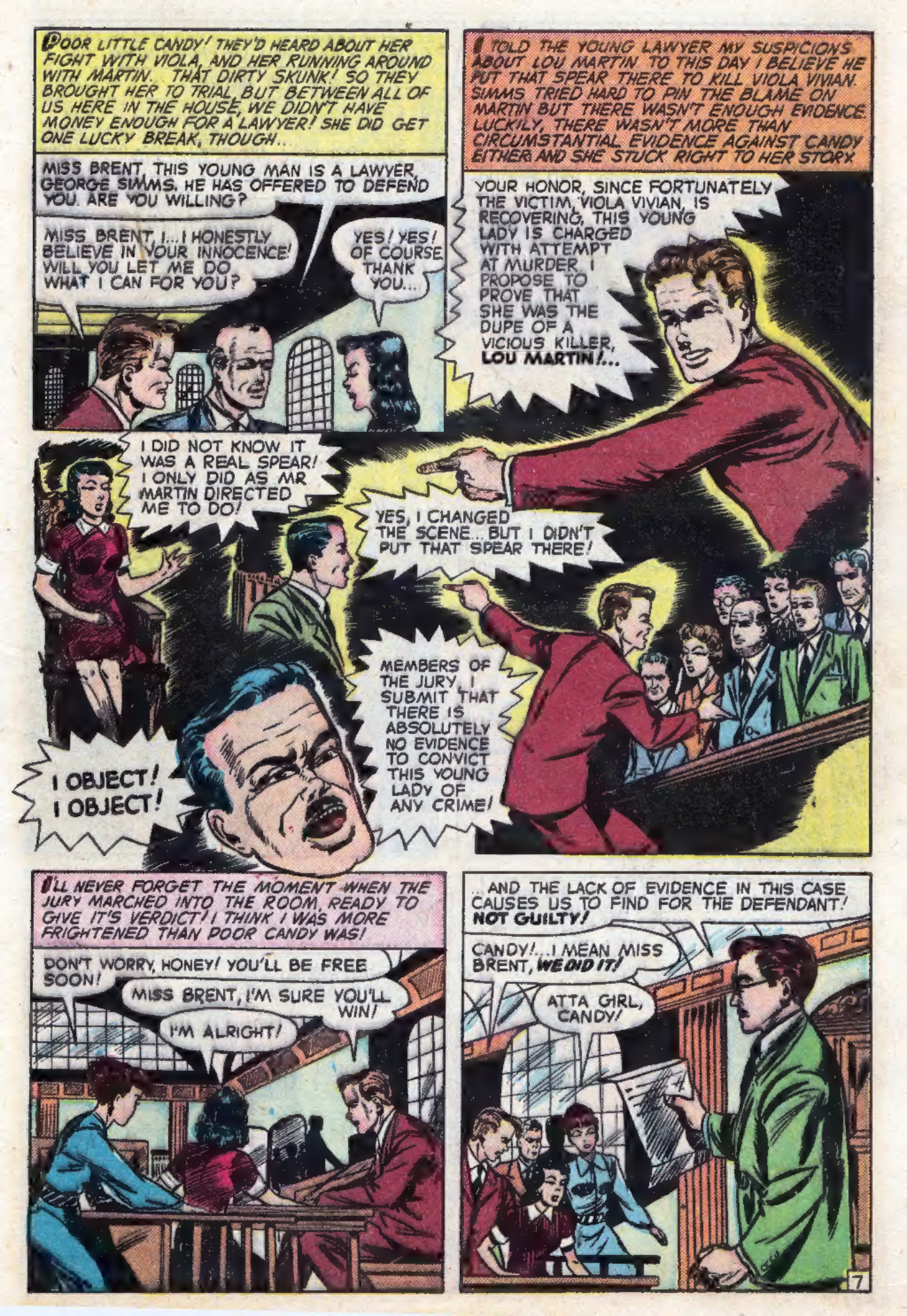

SHE DID IT WELL, TOO... IT DID HEIGHTEN THE DRAMA OF THE SCENE. VIOLA TOOK THE SPEAR, DID A FEW MORE SLOW TURNS AND THEN PRESSED IT TO HER CHEST AND FELL ON IT!

SHE... SHE ISN'T SUPPOSED TO SCREAM LIKE THAT!
LOOK! THERE'S B-BLOOD!
OH OOOO
IT'S A REAL SPEAR! EEEEE!!!!

WHAT HAPPENED?
VIOLA VIVIAN'S BEEN STABBED!
IS SHE DEAD?
IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?

THEY TOOK VIOLA AWAY, DYING, THEY SAID. I RUSHED TO FIND CANDY. THE POOR KID WAS CLOSE TO HYSTERICS....
EASY, EASY, HONEY! IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT!
BUT I HANDED IT TO HER! I DIDN'T KNOW! IT...WAS JUST STANDING WHERE IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE!
MISS BRENT? CANDY BRENT?

YOU'LL HAVE TO COME WITH US, MISS BRENT! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST ON SUSPICION OF MURDER!
OH, NO! NO!


POOR LITTLE CANDY! THEY'D HEARD ABOUT HER FIGHT WITH VIOLA, AND HER RUNNING AROUND WITH MARTIN. THAT DIRTY SKUNK! SO THEY BROUGHT HER TO TRIAL, BUT BETWEEN ALL OF US HERE IN THE HOUSE, WE DIDN'T HAVE MONEY ENOUGH FOR A LAWYER! SHE DID GET ONE LUCKY BREAK, THOUGH..
MISS BRENT, THIS YOUNG MAN IS A LAWYER, GEORGE SIMMS. HE HAS OFFERED TO DEFEND YOU. ARE YOU WILLING?
MISS BRENT, I...I HONESTLY BELIEVE IN YOUR INNOCENCE! WILL YOU LET ME DO WHAT I CAN FOR YOU?
YES! YES! OF COURSE. THANK YOU...
I TOLD THE YOUNG LAWYER MY SUSPICIONS ABOUT LOU MARTIN TO THIS DAY I BELIEVE HE PUT THAT SPEAR THERE TO KILL VIOLA VIVIAN. SIMMS TRIED HARD TO PIN THE BLAME ON MARTIN BUT THERE WASN'T ENOUGH EVIDENCE. LUCKILY, THERE WASN'T MORE THAN CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE AGAINST CANDY EITHER, AND SHE STUCK RIGHT TO HER STORY.
YOUR HONOR, SINCE FORTUNATELY THE VICTIM, VIOLA VIVIAN, IS RECOVERING, THIS YOUNG LADY IS CHARGED WITH ATTEMPT AT MURDER. I PROPOSE TO PROVE THAT SHE WAS THE DUPE OF A VICIOUS KILLER, LOU MARTIN!...
I DID NOT KNOW IT WAS A REAL SPEAR! I ONLY DID AS MR MARTIN DIRECTED ME TO DO!
YES, I CHANGED THE SCENE.. BUT I DIDN'T PUT THAT SPEAR THERE!
MEMBERS OF THE JURY, I SUBMIT THAT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO EVIDENCE TO CONVICT THIS YOUNG LADY OF ANY CRIME!
I OBJECT! I OBJECT!
I'LL NEVER FORGET THE MOMENT WHEN THE JURY MARCHED INTO THE ROOM, READY TO GIVE IT'S VERDICT! I THINK I WAS MORE FRIGHTENED THAN POOR CANDY WAS!
DON'T WORRY, HONEY! YOU'LL BE FREE SOON!
MISS BRENT, I'M SURE YOU'LL WIN!
I'M ALRIGHT!
...AND THE LACK OF EVIDENCE IN THIS CASE CAUSES US TO FIND FOR THE DEFENDANT! NOT GUILTY!
CANDY!...I MEAN MISS BRENT, WE DID IT!
ATTA GIRL, CANDY!
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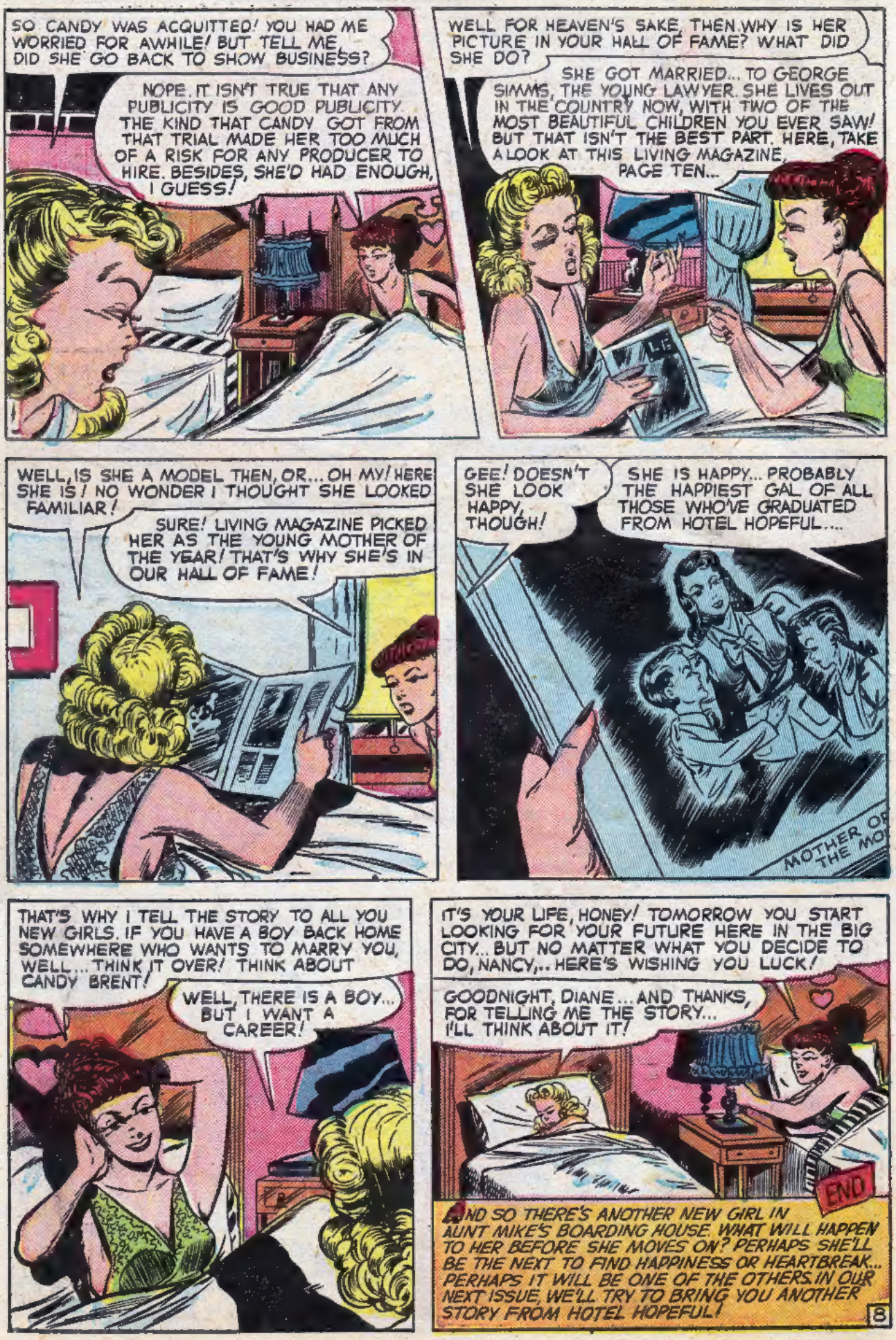
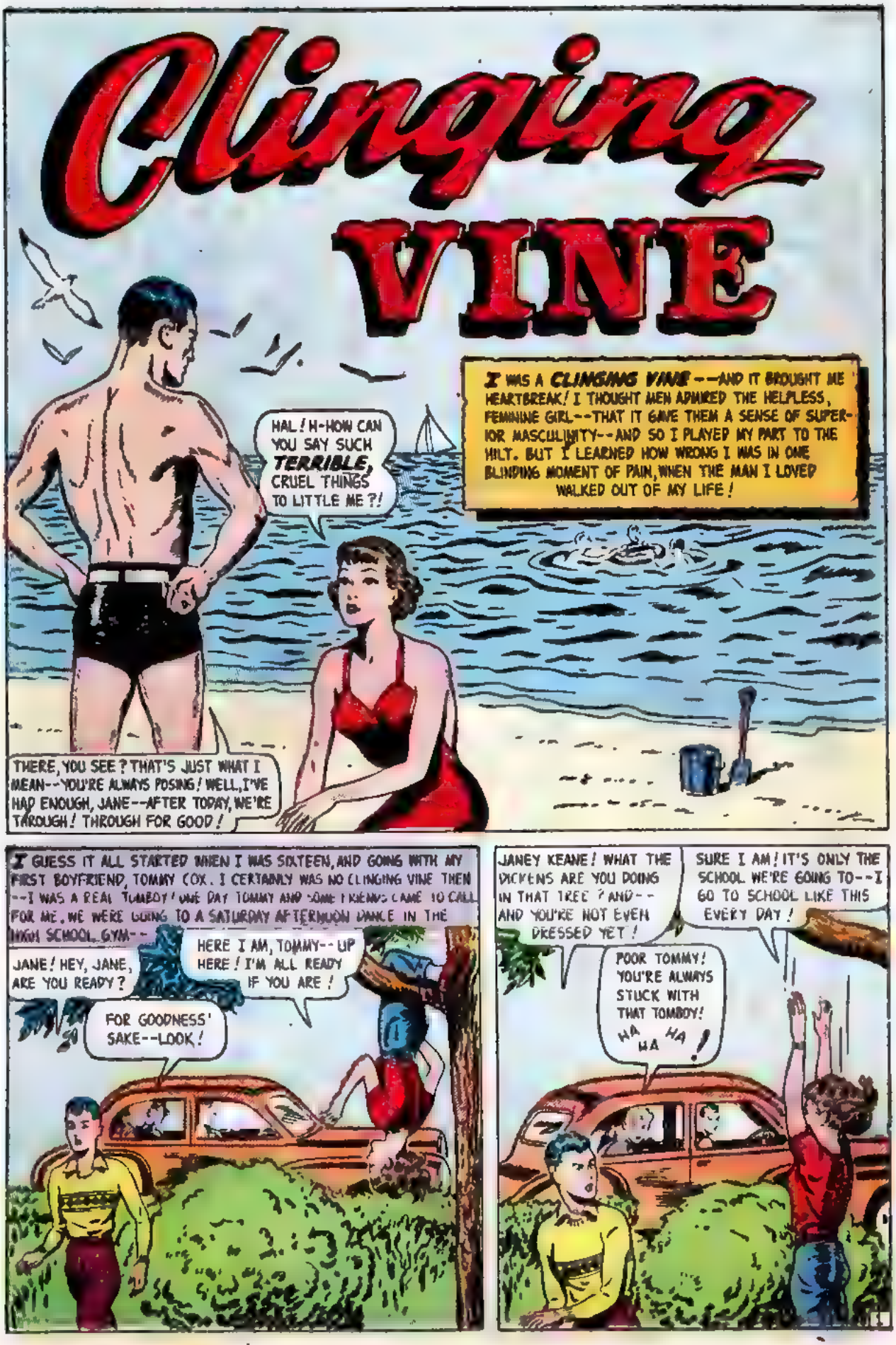

SO CANDY WAS ACQUITTED! YOU HAD ME WORRIED FOR AWHILE! BUT TELL ME... DID SHE GO BACK TO SHOW BUSINESS?
NOPE. IT ISN'T TRUE THAT ANY PUBLICITY IS GOOD PUBLICITY. THE KIND THAT CANDY GOT FROM THAT TRIAL MADE HER TOO MUCH OF A RISK FOR ANY PRODUCER TO HIRE. BESIDES, SHE'D HAD ENOUGH, I GUESS!
WELL FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, THEN WHY IS HER PICTURE IN YOUR HALL OF FAME? WHAT DID SHE DO?
SHE GOT MARRIED... TO GEORGE SIMMS, THE YOUNG LAWYER. SHE LIVES OUT IN THE COUNTRY NOW, WITH TWO OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN YOU EVER SAW! BUT THAT ISN'T THE BEST PART. HERE, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS LIVING MAGAZINE, PAGE TEN...
WELL, IS SHE A MODEL THEN, OR... OH MY! HERE SHE IS! NO WONDER I THOUGHT SHE LOOKED FAMILIAR!
SURE! LIVING MAGAZINE PICKED HER AS THE YOUNG MOTHER OF THE YEAR! THAT'S WHY SHE'S IN OUR HALL OF FAME!
GEE! DOESN'T SHE LOOK HAPPY, THOUGH!
SHE IS HAPPY... PROBABLY THE HAPPIEST GAL OF ALL THOSE WHO'VE GRADUATED FROM HOTEL HOPEFUL....
MOTHER OF THE MO
THAT'S WHY I TELL THE STORY TO ALL YOU NEW GIRLS. IF YOU HAVE A BOY BACK HOME SOMEWHERE WHO WANTS TO MARRY YOU, WELL... THINK IT OVER! THINK ABOUT CANDY BRENT!
WELL, THERE IS A BOY... BUT I WANT A CAREER!
IT'S YOUR LIFE, HONEY! TOMORROW YOU START LOOKING FOR YOUR FUTURE HERE IN THE BIG CITY... BUT NO MATTER WHAT YOU DECIDE TO DO, NANCY,.. HERE'S WISHING YOU LUCK!
GOODNIGHT, DIANE... AND THANKS, FOR TELLING ME THE STORY... I'LL THINK ABOUT IT!
END
AND SO THERE'S ANOTHER NEW GIRL IN AUNT MIKE'S BOARDING HOUSE. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HER BEFORE SHE MOVES ON? PERHAPS SHE'LL BE THE NEXT TO FIND HAPPINESS OR HEARTBREAK... PERHAPS IT WILL BE ONE OF THE OTHERS IN OUR NEXT ISSUE, WE'LL TRY TO BRING YOU ANOTHER STORY FROM HOTEL HOPEFUL!


Clinging VINE
I WAS A CLINGING VINE--AND IT BROUGHT ME HEARTBREAK! I THOUGHT MEN ADMIRED THE HELPLESS, FEMININE GIRL--THAT IT GAVE THEM A SENSE OF SUPERIOR MASCULINITY--AND SO I PLAYED MY PART TO THE HILT. BUT I LEARNED HOW WRONG I WAS IN ONE BLINDING MOMENT OF PAIN, WHEN THE MAN I LOVED WALKED OUT OF MY LIFE!
HA! H-HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH TERRIBLE, CRUEL THINGS TO LITTLE ME?!
THERE, YOU SEE? THAT'S JUST WHAT I MEAN--YOU'RE ALWAYS POSING! WELL, I'VE HAD ENOUGH, JANE--AFTER TODAY, WE'RE THROUGH! THROUGH FOR GOOD!
I GUESS IT ALL STARTED WHEN I WAS SIXTEEN, AND GOING WITH MY FIRST BOYFRIEND, TOMMY COX. I CERTAINLY WAS NO CLINGING VINE THEN--I WAS A REAL TOMBOY! ONE DAY TOMMY AND SOME FRIENDS CAME TO CALL FOR ME, WE WERE GOING TO A SATURDAY AFTERNOON DANCE IN THE HIGH SCHOOL GYM--
JANE! HEY, JANE, ARE YOU READY?
HERE I AM, TOMMY--UP HERE! I'M ALL READY IF YOU ARE!
FOR GOODNESS' SAKE--LOOK!
JANEY KEANE! WHAT THE DICKENS ARE YOU DOING IN THAT TREE? AND--AND YOU'RE NOT EVEN DRESSED YET!
SURE I AM! IT'S ONLY THE SCHOOL WE'RE GOING TO--I GO TO SCHOOL LIKE THIS EVERY DAY!
POOR TOMMY! YOU'RE ALWAYS STUCK WITH THAT TOMBOY! HA HA HA!

MARY PETERS, I HEARD THAT! IF YOU THINK YOU CAN SAY--
SHE--SHE'S RIGHT, JANE! GEE-- I CAN'T TAKE YOU TO THE DANCE THAT WAY--WHAT WOULD PEOPLE THINK!? WHY DON'T YOU LEARN TO BE-- WELL, BE A REAL GIRL ?
PLEASE, BOB--LET'S GO, WE'RE LATE! AND FOR GOODNESS' SAKE, DRIVE CAREFULLY! YOU KNOW HOW NERVOUS I AM !
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN TOMMY WAS BEING CHILDISH, BUT--WELL, I GUESS I TOOK WHAT HE SAID TOO MUCH TO HEART--
TOMMY, WAIT! I--OH, GEE! IT'S NO USE--I AM A TOMBOY! WELL, I'M TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF, RIGHT NOW! IF THAT'S THE WAY BOYS LIKE IT, I'LL BE THE SAPPIEST, SWEETEST LITTLE THING THEY EVER SAW!
I MADE UP MY MIND TO CHANGE--AND I LEARNED FAST! MY NEW PERSONALITY SEEMED TO MAKE A HIT WITH EVERY BOY I MET--
OH GEORGIE--PLEASE! DON'T WALK SO FAST! I--I'M JUST TOO LITTLE TO KEEP UP WITH ANYBODY AS BIG AND STRONG AS YOU ARE !
OH--OH, GEE I'M SORRY, JANE!
I CERTAINLY HAD A LOT OF DATES IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, I'LL SAY THAT! OF COURSE, I DIDN'T MEET ANYONE I REALLY CARED FOR, SO I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW FEW OF MY DATES LASTED MORE THAN A WEEK OR TWO--
OH, THIS IS FUN, BILL! IT'S SO SCAREY! I--I'D LOVE TO DO THIS AGAIN NEXT WEEK--IF YOU PROMISE TO HOLD ME REAL TIGHT THE WHOLE TIME SO I WON'T FALL!
SURE--SURE, JANEY. I'LL--WELL, I'LL PHONE YOU OR SOMETHING!
IT WASN'T TILL THE SPRING THAT I WAS NINETEEN THAT I MET TYNE MAY BUT THE MINUTE I SAW HIM, I KNEW! AND HE SEEMED TO FEEL THE SAME WAY--
HI, JANE! DO YOU THINK A COUPLE OF MUSCULAR GUYS MIGHT BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE ?
WHY, BOB! NICE TO SEE YOU AFTER ALL THIS TIME! AND RIGHT WHEN I NEED A MAN, TOO --THIS DARNED CHAIR IS TOO COMPLICATED FOR THE FEMININE MIND!
JANE, THIS IS HAL GORDON-- HAL, MEET JANE KEANE.
A PLEASURE-- I'M VERY GLAD TO MEET YOU, JANE!
THANK YOU--HAL. IF I MAY CALL YOU THAT--SO SOON ?
I WISH YOU WOULD, JANE. WHY DON'T WE MAKE A DATE FOR THIS EVENING, SO THAT YOU CAN GET USED TO THE NAME --AND I CAN GET USED TO HOW PRETTY YOU ARE!?
I DON'T USUALLY GO OUT WITH STRANGERS, BUT-- SINCE YOU'RE SO NICE, HAL-- I WILL!
2

HAL WAS EVERYTHING I HOPED HE'D BE--AND SUDDENLY I REALIZED I WAS IN LOVE! I WAS DETERMINED TO KEEP HAL INTERESTED AND DEVOTED TO ME, AND AT FIRST IT SEEMED MY TECHNIQUE WAS PERFECT! ONE NIGHT, A MONTH AFTER WE MET, HAL PROPOSED AND I ACCEPTED!

JANE, I'M SO HAPPY I COULD FLY! JUST THINK --YOU AND I ARE GOING TO BE MARRIED! LET'S JUST DANCE LIKE THIS TILL--TILL THE END OF THE WORLD! I LOVE TO DANCE, JANE--AND WE DANCE SO WELL TOGETHER!

I--I'M HAPPY TOO, DEAR. BUT--BUT I--I GUESS I'M NOT AS STRONG AS YOU ARE--I FEEL A LITTLE FAINT--

BUT--BUT WE WERE HAVING SO MUCH FUN--OH, I'M SORRY, JANE! OF COURSE, WE'LL GO IF YOU WANT TO!

YOU'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT I'M JUST A WEAK LITTLE GIRL, HAL --I'LL HAVE TO DEPEND ON YOU SO!

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN SOMETHING WAS WRONG WHEN HAL FIRST BEGAN ACTING BORED AND GRUMPY--BUT I WAS BLIND, STUPID--

SAY, JANE--YOU DON'T PLAY GOLF, DO YOU? HOW WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TEACH YOU? IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY, AND THIS IS JUST THE START OF MY VACATION, SO--

GOODNESS, NO--NO GOLF! WHY, MY POOR LITTLE FEET WOULD NEVER GET ME UP AND DOWN ALL THOSE HILLS! AND THE HOT SUN--WHY, I'D JUST BURN UP!

BUT JANE, WE CAN'T JUST SIT AND DO NOTHING EVERY AFTERNOON! THERE MUST BE *SOMETHING* YOU CAN DO!

NOW HAL, YOU'RE JUST GRUMPY BECAUSE IT'S SO HOT. YOU'LL BE FINE WHEN YOU TASTE THE LOVELY PITCHER OF LEMONADE I MADE FOR YOU!

MY TROUBLE REALLY BEGAN A FEW NIGHTS LATER, WHEN I LET HAL TALK ME INTO GOING ROLLER SKATING. OF COURSE, I COULD ROLLER SKATE PERFECTLY, BUT I HAD NO INTENTION OF LETTING HAL THINK I WAS A TOMBOY!

OHHHHH! LOOK OUT!

OH, RELAX, JANE! HI, BOB--WHAT'S NEW?

HELLO, YOU TWO! THIS IS WHAT'S NEW, HAL--MY COUSIN, KAY BENTON--JUST MOVED TO TOWN!

MEET JANE KEANE AND HAL GORDON, KAY! KAY'S A GOOD SPORT, HAL--FOR A COUSIN! BEAT ME AT BOWLING LAST NIGHT!

HELLO--NICE TO KNOW YOU!

HOW DO YOU DO, MISS BENTON?

SO YOU'RE A BOWLER, EH? I HAVEN'T MET A GIRL WHO COULD BOWL FOR A LONG TIME!

SOMETHING IN HAL'S VOICE, IN HIS MANNER, TOLD ME HIS REMARK WAS A SLY PIG AT ME. I KNEW I HAD TO DO SOMETHING FAST--BUT AS USUAL, I DID THE WRONG THING!

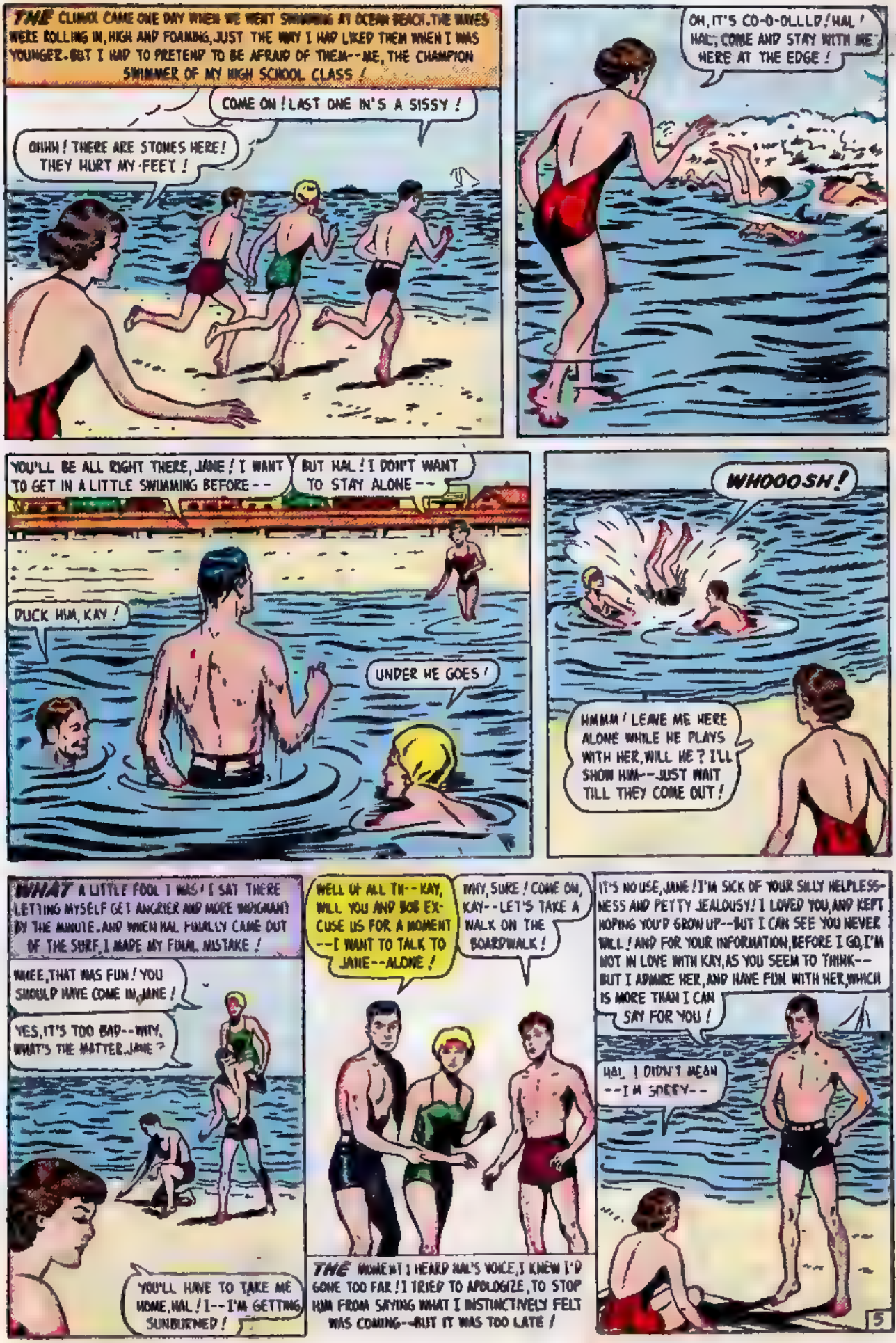
LET'S TRY SKATING AROUND TOGETHER, SHALL WE?

OUT *THERE*? OH, I COULDN'T! HAL, YOU PROMISED TO TAKE ME TO THE BEGINNER'S CIRCLE AND TEACH ME TO SKATE!

OH, ALL RIGHT, JANE--LET'S GO!

I'LL CALL YOU TOMORROW, HAL--MAYBE WE CAN ALL GO SOMEWHERE TOGETHER. COME ON, KATE--LET'S KICK UP SOME SPEED!

HAL, I'M AFRAID I'LL FALL! HOLD ME TIGHT, NOW, AND --HAL! YOU AREN'T EVEN LISTENING!
BOY! LOOK AT THAT KATE GO! SHE REALLY CAN--WHAT JANE?
WELL! IF YOU'D RATHER LOOK AT HER, WHILE I PRACTICALLY KILL MYSELF FALLING ON THIS HARD FLOOR--I'M TIRED HAL --I WANT TO GO HOME!
DON'T BE SILLY, JANE! I'M NOT--OH, ALL RIGHT! WE'RE CERTAINLY NOT HAVING MUCH OF A GOOD TIME HERE ANYWAY!
AFTER THAT, THE FOUR OF US WENT EVERYWHERE TOGETHER-- AND MORE AND MORE, HAL PAID ATTENTION TO KAY. NO MATTER WHERE WE WENT IT WAS THE SAME--ON THE TENNIS COURT--
WELL, I'M THROUGH FOR THE DAY--MY ANKLE'S TWISTED!
LET'S PLAY ONE MORE SET, HAL.
WELL, I'D LIKE TO PLAY, TOO--THAT IS, I--
WHY, JANEY, YOU TOLD ME YOU COULD HARDLY LIFT A RACQUET! YOU JUST SIT THERE IN THE SHADE AND TALK TO BOB!
DARN IT! I'M A GOOD TENNIS PLAYER! WHY DID I HAVE TO SAY--
OH KEEP QUIET, BOB--YOU'RE NOT A BIT FUNNY!
CHEER UP, JANE--IT'S BOUND TO RAIN SOME-DAY--THEN YOU CAN PLAY CHECKERS!
EVEN PLAYING CROQUET ON MY OWN LAWN!
WELL, COME ON JANE--HIT IT! YOU'RE HOLDING UP THE GAME AGAIN AND IT'S GETTING DARK!
BUT GOODNESS HAL--I MIGHT HIT MY OWN FOOT! I--I'M SCARED TO TRY!
OH, NEVER MIND! LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES--I DON'T THINK ANY-THING WILL HURT YOU THERE!
HAL! WAIT FOR ME! YOU-- YOU'D THINK IT WAS MY FAULT I'M NOT STRONG AND ATHLETIC--AND ALL MUSCULAR, LIKE KAY!
4

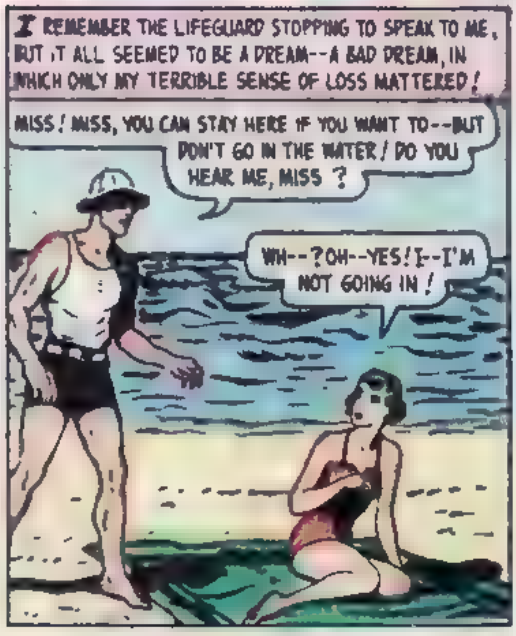

THE CLIMAX CAME ONE DAY WHEN WE WENT SWIMMING AT OCEAN BEACH. THE WAVES WERE ROLLING IN, HIGH AND FOAMING, JUST THE WAY I HAD LIKED THEM WHEN I WAS YOUNGER. BUT I HAD TO PRETEND TO BE AFRAID OF THEM--ME, THE CHAMPION SWIMMER OF MY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS!
COME ON! LAST ONE IN'S A SISSY!
OHHH! THERE ARE STONES HERE! THEY HURT MY FEET!
OH, IT'S CO-O-OLLLD! HAL! HAL, COME AND STAY WITH ME HERE AT THE EDGE!
YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT THERE, JANE! I WANT TO GET IN A LITTLE SWIMMING BEFORE--
BUT HAL! I DON'T WANT TO STAY ALONE--
DUCK HIM, KAY!
UNDER WE GOES!
WHOOOSH!
HMMM! LEAVE ME HERE ALONE WHILE HE PLAYS WITH HER, WILL HE? I'LL SHOW HIM--JUST WAIT TILL THEY COME OUT!
WHAT A LITTLE FOOL I WAS! I SAT THERE LETTING MYSELF GET ANGRIER AND MORE MIXED UP BY THE MINUTE. AND WHEN HAL FINALLY CAME OUT OF THE SURF, I MADE MY FINAL MISTAKE!
WHEE, THAT WAS FUN! YOU SHOULD HAVE COME IN, JANE!
YES, IT'S TOO BAD--WHY, WHAT'S THE MATTER, JANE?
YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE ME HOME, HAL! I--I'M GETTING SUNBURNED!
WELL UH ALL TH--KAY, WILL YOU AND BOB EXCUSE US FOR A MOMENT --I WANT TO TALK TO JANE--ALONE!
WHY, SURE! COME ON, KAY--LET'S TAKE A WALK ON THE BOARDWALK!
THE MOMENT I HEARD HAL'S VOICE, I KNEW I'D GONE TOO FAR! I TRIED TO APOLOGIZE, TO STOP HIM FROM SAYING WHAT I INSTINCTIVELY FELT WAS COMING--BUT IT WAS TOO LATE!
IT'S NO USE, JANE! I'M SICK OF YOUR SILLY HELPLESSNESS AND PETTY JEALOUSY! I LOVED YOU, AND KEPT HOPING YOU'D GROW UP--BUT I CAN SEE YOU NEVER WILL! AND FOR YOUR INFORMATION, BEFORE I GO, I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH KAY, AS YOU SEEM TO THINK--BUT I ADMIRE HER, AND HAVE FUN WITH HER, WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR YOU!
HAL, I DIDN'T MEAN --I'M SORRY--
5

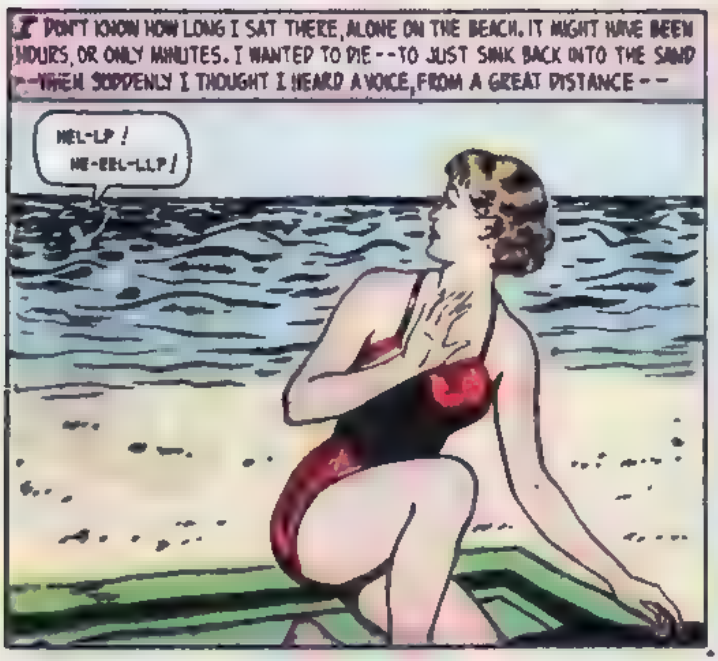
BUT HAL! H-HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH TERRIBLE, CRUEL THINGS TO LITTLE ME!?
THERE, YOU SEE? THAT'S JUST WHAT I MEAN--YOU'RE ALWAYS POSING! WELL, I'VE HAD ENOUGH, JANE --AFTER TODAY, WE'RE THROUGH! THROUGH FOR GOOD!

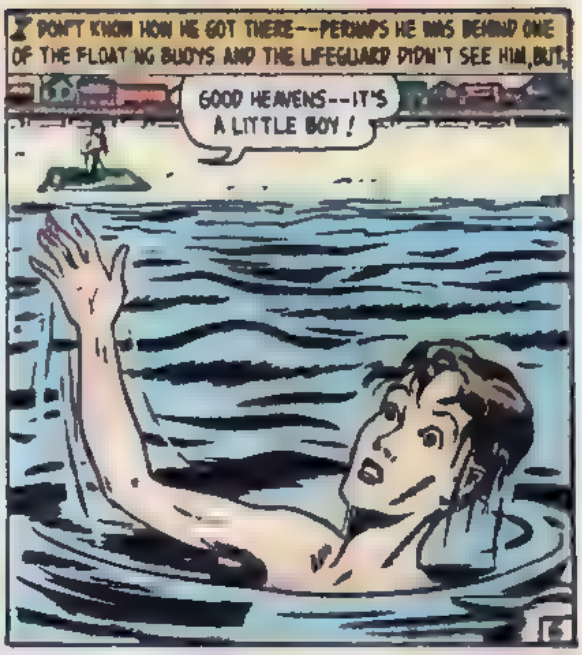
NO, HAL! NO! I'LL CHANGE--I'LL BE DIFFERENT!
AND WHAT'S MORE--I'M NOT TAKING YOU HOME TILL I'M GOOD AND READY! I WON'T HAVE YOU SPOILING THE FUN FOR THE OTHERS! NOW I'M GOING UP AND FIND BOB AND KAY AND YOU CAN SIT HERE TILL WE GET DARN GOOD AND READY TO LEAVE! GOODBYE!

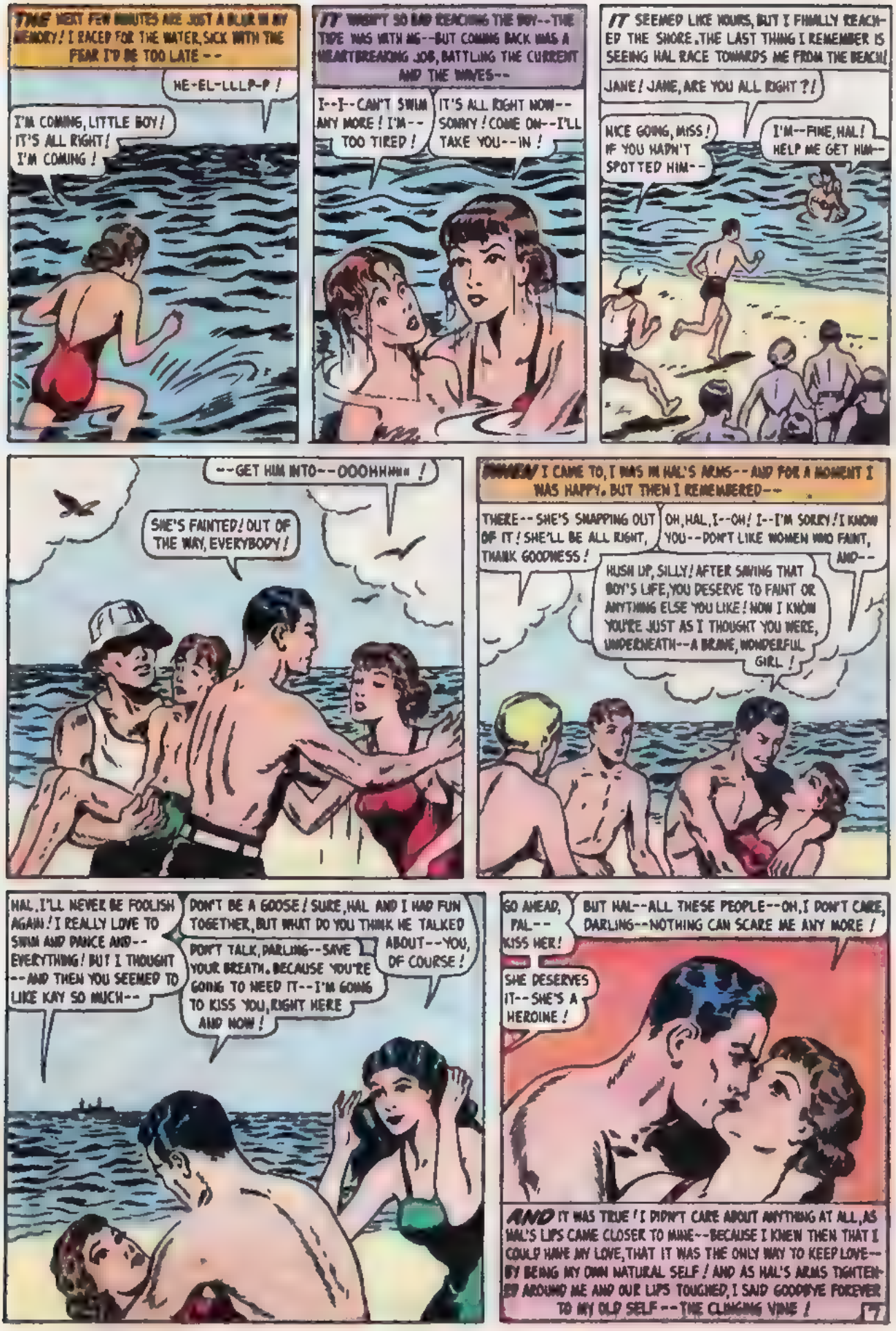
THE MOMENT I HAD TRIED SO HARD TO PREVENT HAD COME--AND GONE! I COULD HARDLY SEE HAL AS HE MARCHED AWAY FOR THE TEARS IN MY EYES! I TRIED TO CALL AFTER HIM, BUT MY HEART WAS BEATING WILDLY IN MY THROAT--
HAL DARLING--PLEASE! PLEASE DON'T GO! I--I LOVE YOU--

AND THEN HAL WAS GONE--AND IT WAS ALL OVER! MY DREAM, MY LOVE, MY HOPE FOR THE FUTURE--ALL OVER! DIMLY I HEARD VOICES, SAW THE PEOPLE STREAMING PAST ME, BUT I COULD THINK OF NOTHING--NOTHING BUT THE BURNING ACHE IN MY HEART!
ALL RIGHT, FOLKS--NO MORE SWIMMING! WATER'S GETTING MUCH TOO ROUGH. I WOULDN'T WANT TO STAY IN THERE MYSELF!

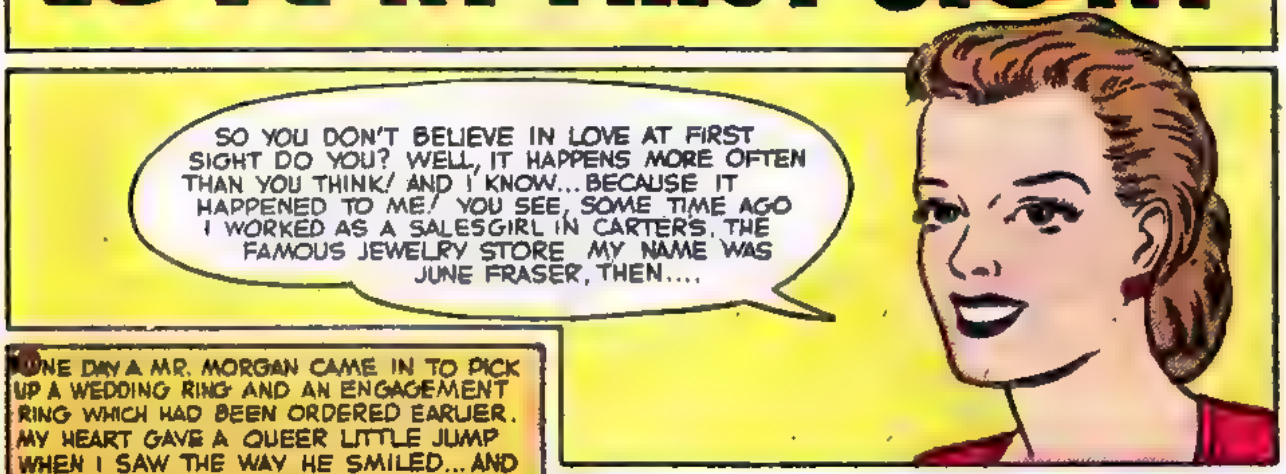

I REMEMBER THE LIFEGUARD STOPPING TO SPEAK TO ME, BUT IT ALL SEEMED TO BE A DREAM--A BAD DREAM, IN WHICH ONLY MY TERRIBLE SENSE OF LOSS MATTERED!
MISS! MISS, YOU CAN STAY HERE IF YOU WANT TO--BUT DON'T GO IN THE WATER! DO YOU HEAR ME, MISS?
WH--? OH--YES! I--I'M NOT GOING IN!

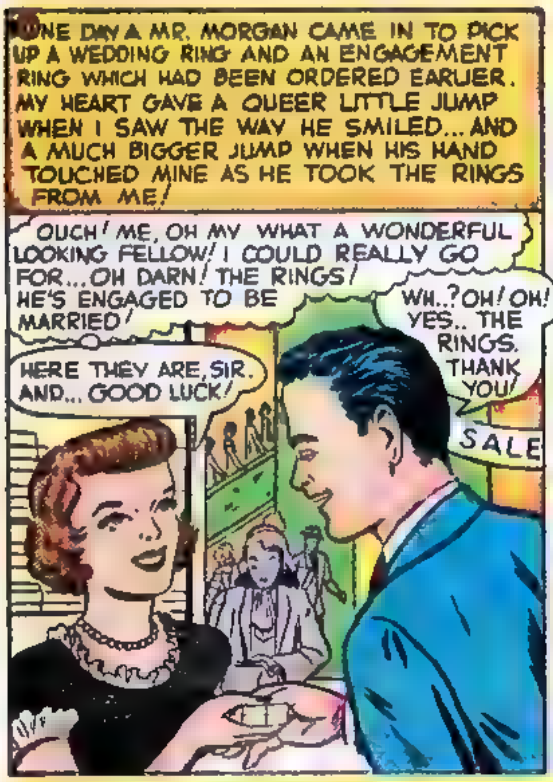

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I SAT THERE, ALONE ON THE BEACH. IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HOURS, OR ONLY MINUTES. I WANTED TO DIE--TO JUST SINK BACK INTO THE SAND --WHEN SUDDENLY I THOUGHT I HEARD A VOICE, FROM A GREAT DISTANCE--
HEL-LP! HE-EEL-LLP!


I DON'T KNOW HOW HE GOT THERE--PERHAPS HE WAS BEHIND ONE OF THE FLOATING BUOYS AND THE LIFEGUARD DIDN'T SEE HIM, BUT,
GOOD HEAVENS--IT'S A LITTLE BOY!


THE NEXT FEW MINUTES ARE JUST A BLUR IN MY MEMORY! I RACED FOR THE WATER, SICK WITH THE FEAR I'D BE TOO LATE --
HE-EL-LLLP-P!
I'M COMING, LITTLE BOY! IT'S ALL RIGHT! I'M COMING!
IT WASN'T SO BAD REACHING THE BOY--THE TIDE WAS WITH ME--BUT COMING BACK WAS A HEARTBREAKING JOB, BATTLING THE CURRENT AND THE WAVES--
I--I--CAN'T SWIM ANY MORE! I'M-- TOO TIRED!
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW-- SORRY! COME ON--I'LL TAKE YOU--IN!
IT SEEMED LIKE HOURS, BUT I FINALLY REACHED THE SHORE. THE LAST THING I REMEMBER IS SEEING HAL RACE TOWARDS ME FROM THE BEACH!
JANE! JANE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
NICE GOING, MISS! IF YOU HADN'T SPOTTED HIM--
I'M--FINE, HAL! HELP ME GET HIM--
--GET HIM INTO--OOOHHHHH!
SHE'S FAINTED! OUT OF THE WAY, EVERYBODY!
WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS IN HAL'S ARMS--AND FOR A MOMENT I WAS HAPPY. BUT THEN I REMEMBERED--
THERE--SHE'S SNAPPING OUT OF IT! SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, THANK GOODNESS!
OH, HAL, I--OH! I--I'M SORRY! I KNOW YOU--DON'T LIKE WOMEN WHO FAINT, AND--
HUSH UP, SILLY! AFTER SAVING THAT BOY'S LIFE, YOU DESERVE TO FAINT OR ANYTHING ELSE YOU LIKE! NOW I KNOW YOU'RE JUST AS I THOUGHT YOU WERE, UNDERNEATH--A BRAVE, WONDERFUL GIRL!
HAL, I'LL NEVER BE FOOLISH AGAIN! I REALLY LOVE TO SWIM AND DANCE AND-- EVERYTHING! BUT I THOUGHT --AND THEN YOU SEEMED TO LIKE KAY SO MUCH--
DON'T BE A GOOSE! SURE, HAL AND I HAD FUN TOGETHER, BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK HE TALKED ABOUT--YOU, OF COURSE!
DON'T TALK, DARLING--SAVE YOUR BREATH. BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO NEED IT--I'M GOING TO KISS YOU, RIGHT HERE AND NOW!
GO AHEAD, PAL-- KISS HER!
BUT HAL--ALL THESE PEOPLE--OH, I DON'T CARE, DARLING--NOTHING CAN SCARE ME ANY MORE!
SHE DESERVES IT--SHE'S A HEROINE!
AND IT WAS TRUE! I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING AT ALL, AS HAL'S LIPS CAME CLOSER TO MINE--BECAUSE I KNEW THEN THAT I COULD HAVE MY LOVE, THAT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP LOVE--BY BEING MY OWN NATURAL SELF! AND AS HAL'S ARMS TIGHTENED AROUND ME AND OUR LIPS TOUCHED, I SAID GOODBYE FOREVER TO MY OLD SELF--THE CLINGING VINE!
17

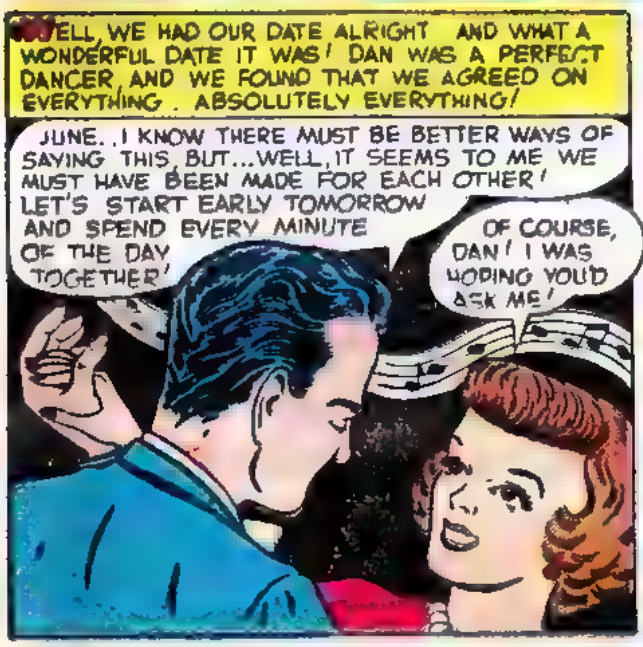
LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

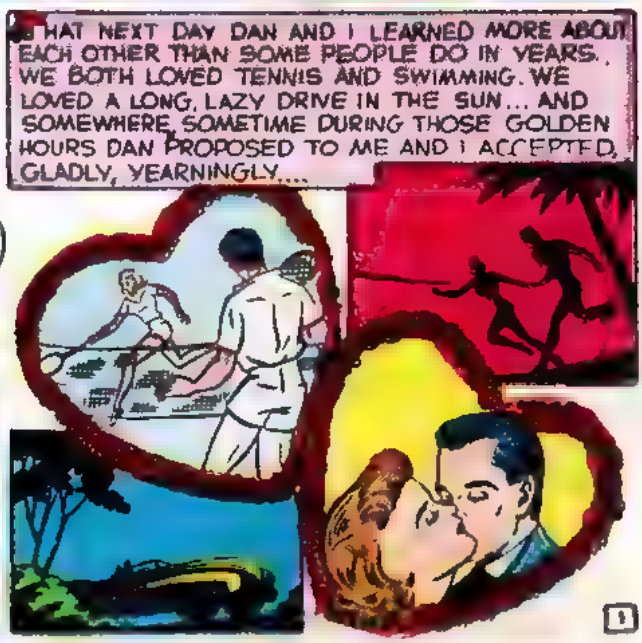

SO YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT DO YOU? WELL, IT HAPPENS MORE OFTEN THAN YOU THINK! AND I KNOW... BECAUSE IT HAPPENED TO ME! YOU SEE, SOME TIME AGO I WORKED AS A SALESGIRL IN CARTER'S, THE FAMOUS JEWELRY STORE. MY NAME WAS JUNE FRASER, THEN....

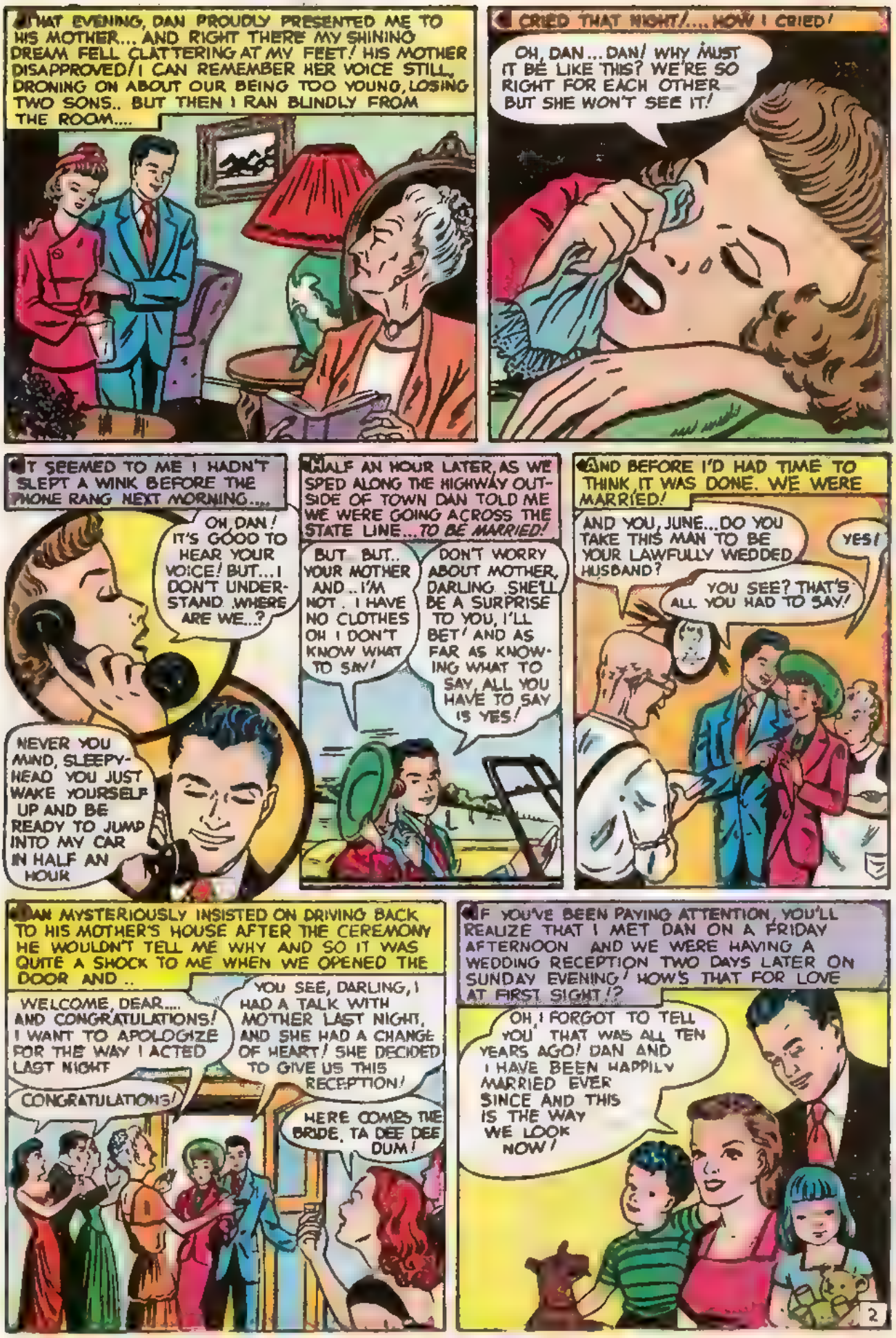

ONE DAY A MR. MORGAN CAME IN TO PICK UP A WEDDING RING AND AN ENGAGEMENT RING WHICH HAD BEEN ORDERED EARLIER. MY HEART GAVE A QUEER LITTLE JUMP WHEN I SAW THE WAY HE SMILED... AND A MUCH BIGGER JUMP WHEN HIS HAND TOUCHED MINE AS HE TOOK THE RINGS FROM ME!
OUCH! ME, OH MY WHAT A WONDERFUL LOOKING FELLOW! I COULD REALLY GO FOR... OH DARN! THE RINGS! HE'S ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED!
WH..? OH! OH! YES.. THE RINGS. THANK YOU!
HERE THEY ARE, SIR. AND... GOOD LUCK!
SALE

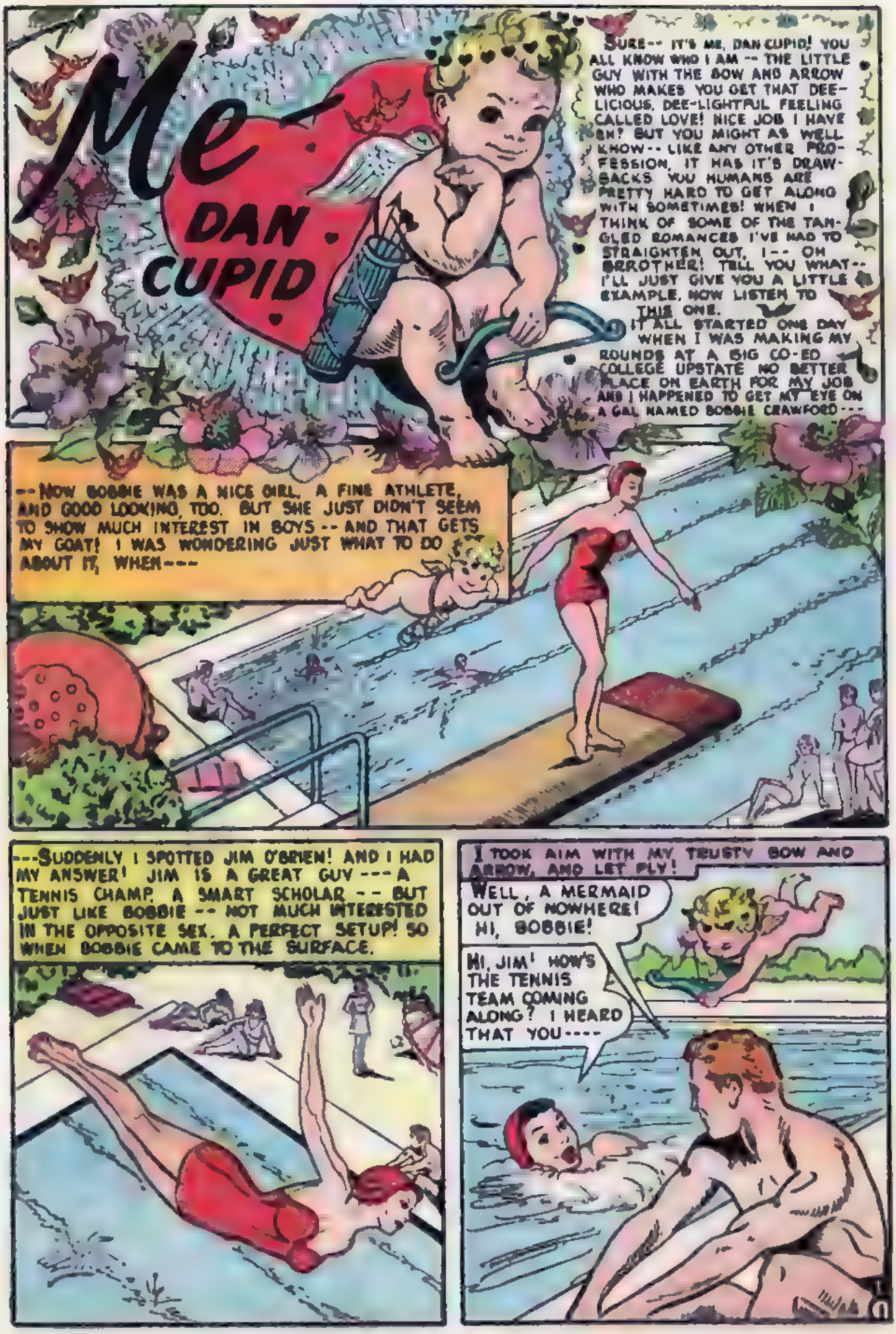
WELL, FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF HOURS UNTIL THE STORE CLOSED I COULD HAVE KICKED MYSELF FOR HAVING SUCH BAD LUCK! HERE I HAD FINALLY SEEN THE MAN... AND ANOTHER GIRL ALREADY HAD HIM! BUT THEN, AS I STEPPED INTO THE STREET AT FIVE O'CLOCK....
WH...WHY, MR. MORGAN! I WAS WISH... I MEAN
HELLO! I WAITED HERE FOR YOU I'D LIKE. I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK I'M TOO FORWARD, BUT I'D VERY MUCH LIKE TO TAKE YOU TO DINNER!

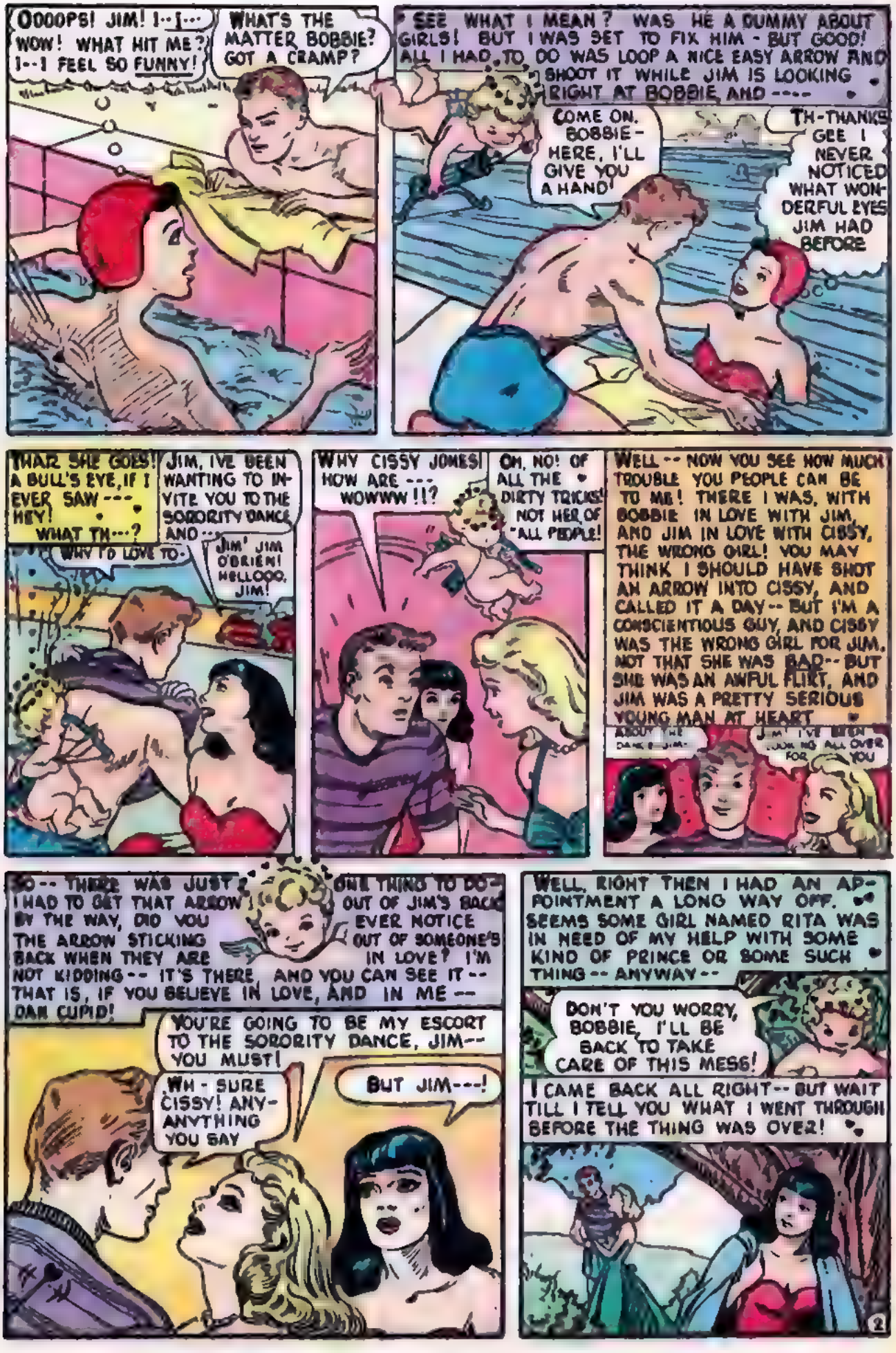
BUT... BUT... MR MORGAN! I REALLY WOULDN'T CARE TO GO OUT WITH AN ENGAGED MAN!
ENGAGED? BUT I'M NOT... OH, I SEE! THE RINGS! THOSE ARE FOR MY BROTHER, DICK. HE'S BEING MARRIED NEXT WEEK. MY NAME IS DAN... AND HOW ABOUT THAT DATE?


WELL, WE HAD OUR DATE ALRIGHT AND WHAT A WONDERFUL DATE IT WAS! DAN WAS A PERFECT DANCER, AND WE FOUND THAT WE AGREED ON EVERYTHING. ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING!
JUNE.. I KNOW THERE MUST BE BETTER WAYS OF SAYING THIS, BUT... WELL, IT SEEMS TO ME WE MUST HAVE BEEN MADE FOR EACH OTHER! LET'S START EARLY TOMORROW AND SPEND EVERY MINUTE OF THE DAY TOGETHER!
OF COURSE, DAN! I WAS HOPING YOU'D ASK ME!


THAT NEXT DAY DAN AND I LEARNED MORE ABOUT EACH OTHER THAN SOME PEOPLE DO IN YEARS. WE BOTH LOVED TENNIS AND SWIMMING. WE LOVED A LONG, LAZY DRIVE IN THE SUN... AND SOMEWHERE, SOMETIME DURING THOSE GOLDEN HOURS DAN PROPOSED TO ME AND I ACCEPTED, GLADLY, YEARNINGLY....


THAT EVENING, DAN PROUDLY PRESENTED ME TO HIS MOTHER... AND RIGHT THERE MY SHINING DREAM FELL CLATTERING AT MY FEET! HIS MOTHER DISAPPROVED! I CAN REMEMBER HER VOICE STILL, DRONING ON ABOUT OUR BEING TOO YOUNG, LOSING TWO SONS.. BUT THEN I RAN BLINDLY FROM THE ROOM....
I CRIED THAT NIGHT!.... HOW I CRIED!
OH, DAN... DAN! WHY MUST IT BE LIKE THIS? WE'RE SO RIGHT FOR EACH OTHER BUT SHE WON'T SEE IT!
IT SEEMED TO ME I HADN'T SLEPT A WINK BEFORE THE PHONE RANG NEXT MORNING....
OH, DAN! IT'S GOOD TO HEAR YOUR VOICE! BUT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND .WHERE ARE WE...?
NEVER YOU MIND, SLEEPY-HEAD YOU JUST WAKE YOURSELF UP AND BE READY TO JUMP INTO MY CAR IN HALF AN HOUR
HALF AN HOUR LATER, AS WE SPED ALONG THE HIGHWAY OUTSIDE OF TOWN DAN TOLD ME WE WERE GOING ACROSS THE STATE LINE... TO BE MARRIED!
BUT BUT.. YOUR MOTHER AND .. I'M NOT . I HAVE NO CLOTHES OH I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT MOTHER, DARLING .SHE'LL BE A SURPRISE TO YOU, I'LL BET! AND AS FAR AS KNOWING WHAT TO SAY, ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY IS YES!
AND BEFORE I'D HAD TIME TO THINK IT WAS DONE. WE WERE MARRIED!
AND YOU, JUNE... DO YOU TAKE THIS MAN TO BE YOUR LAWFULLY WEDDED HUSBAND?
YES!
YOU SEE? THAT'S ALL YOU HAD TO SAY!
DAN MYSTERIOUSLY INSISTED ON DRIVING BACK TO HIS MOTHER'S HOUSE AFTER THE CEREMONY HE WOULDN'T TELL ME WHY AND SO IT WAS QUITE A SHOCK TO ME WHEN WE OPENED THE DOOR AND ..
WELCOME, DEAR.... AND CONGRATULATIONS! I WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE WAY I ACTED LAST NIGHT
YOU SEE, DARLING, I HAD A TALK WITH MOTHER LAST NIGHT, AND SHE HAD A CHANGE OF HEART! SHE DECIDED TO GIVE US THIS RECEPTION!
CONGRATULATIONS!
HERE COMES THE BRIDE, TA DEE DEE DUM!
IF YOU'VE BEEN PAYING ATTENTION, YOU'LL REALIZE THAT I MET DAN ON A FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND WE WERE HAVING A WEDDING RECEPTION TWO DAYS LATER ON SUNDAY EVENING! HOW'S THAT FOR LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT!?
OH, I FORGOT TO TELL YOU THAT WAS ALL TEN YEARS AGO! DAN AND I HAVE BEEN HAPPILY MARRIED EVER SINCE AND THIS IS THE WAY WE LOOK NOW!
2


Me - DAN - CUPID
SURE-- IT'S ME, DAN CUPID! YOU ALL KNOW WHO I AM -- THE LITTLE GUY WITH THE BOW AND ARROW WHO MAKES YOU GET THAT DEE-LICIOUS, DEE-LIGHTFUL FEELING CALLED LOVE! NICE JOB I HAVE EH? BUT YOU MIGHT AS WELL KNOW-- LIKE ANY OTHER PROFESSION, IT HAS IT'S DRAWBACKS. YOU HUMANS ARE PRETTY HARD TO GET ALONG WITH SOMETIMES! WHEN I THINK OF SOME OF THE TANGLED ROMANCES I'VE HAD TO STRAIGHTEN OUT, I-- OH BRROTHER! TELL YOU WHAT-- I'LL JUST GIVE YOU A LITTLE EXAMPLE, NOW LISTEN TO THIS ONE.
IT ALL STARTED ONE DAY WHEN I WAS MAKING MY ROUNDS AT A BIG CO-ED COLLEGE UPSTATE NO BETTER PLACE ON EARTH FOR MY JOB AND I HAPPENED TO GET MY EYE ON A GAL NAMED BOBBIE CRAWFORD---
--NOW BOBBIE WAS A NICE GIRL, A FINE ATHLETE, AND GOOD LOOKING, TOO. BUT SHE JUST DIDN'T SEEM TO SHOW MUCH INTEREST IN BOYS -- AND THAT GETS MY GOAT! I WAS WONDERING JUST WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT, WHEN---
---SUDDENLY I SPOTTED JIM O'BRIEN! AND I HAD MY ANSWER! JIM IS A GREAT GUY --- A TENNIS CHAMP, A SMART SCHOLAR -- BUT JUST LIKE BOBBIE -- NOT MUCH INTERESTED IN THE OPPOSITE SEX. A PERFECT SETUP! SO WHEN BOBBIE CAME TO THE SURFACE.
I TOOK AIM WITH MY TRUSTY BOW AND ARROW, AND LET FLY!
WELL, A MERMAID OUT OF NOWHERE! HI, BOBBIE!
HI, JIM! HOW'S THE TENNIS TEAM COMING ALONG? I HEARD THAT YOU----


OOOOPS! JIM! I--I--
WOW! WHAT HIT ME? I--I FEEL SO FUNNY!
WHAT'S THE MATTER BOBBIE? GOT A CRAMP?
SEE WHAT I MEAN? WAS HE A DUMMY ABOUT GIRLS! BUT I WAS SET TO FIX HIM - BUT GOOD! ALL I HAD TO DO WAS LOOP A NICE EASY ARROW AND SHOOT IT WHILE JIM IS LOOKING RIGHT AT BOBBIE, AND ----
COME ON, BOBBIE - HERE, I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND!
TH-THANKS GEE I NEVER NOTICED WHAT WONDERFUL EYES JIM HAD BEFORE
THAR SHE GOES! A BULL'S EYE, IF I EVER SAW --- HEY! WHAT TH---?
JIM, I'VE BEEN WANTING TO INVITE YOU TO THE SORORITY DANCE AND --
WHY I'D LOVE TO-
JIM' JIM O'BRIEN! HELLOOO, JIM!
WHY CISSY JONES! HOW ARE --- WOWWW!!?
OH, NO! OF ALL THE DIRTY TRICKS! NOT HER OF ALL PEOPLE!
WELL -- NOW YOU SEE HOW MUCH TROUBLE YOU PEOPLE CAN BE TO ME! THERE I WAS, WITH BOBBIE IN LOVE WITH JIM, AND JIM IN LOVE WITH CISSY, THE WRONG GIRL! YOU MAY THINK I SHOULD HAVE SHOT AN ARROW INTO CISSY, AND CALLED IT A DAY -- BUT I'M A CONSCIENTIOUS GUY, AND CISSY WAS THE WRONG GIRL FOR JIM, NOT THAT SHE WAS BAD -- BUT SHE WAS AN AWFUL FLIRT, AND JIM WAS A PRETTY SERIOUS YOUNG MAN AT HEART
ABOUT THE DANCE, JIM-
JIM' I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU
SO -- THERE WAS JUST ONE THING TO DO - I HAD TO GET THAT ARROW OUT OF JIM'S BACK! BY THE WAY, DID YOU EVER NOTICE THE ARROW STICKING OUT OF SOMEONE'S BACK WHEN THEY ARE IN LOVE? I'M NOT KIDDING -- IT'S THERE, AND YOU CAN SEE IT -- THAT IS, IF YOU BELIEVE IN LOVE, AND IN ME -- DAN CUPID!
YOU'RE GOING TO BE MY ESCORT TO THE SORORITY DANCE, JIM -- YOU MUST!
WH - SURE CISSY! ANY- ANYTHING YOU SAY
BUT JIM---!
WELL, RIGHT THEN I HAD AN APPOINTMENT A LONG WAY OFF. SEEMS SOME GIRL NAMED RITA WAS IN NEED OF MY HELP WITH SOME KIND OF PRINCE OR SOME SUCH THING -- ANYWAY --
DON'T YOU WORRY, BOBBIE, I'LL BE BACK TO TAKE CARE OF THIS MESS!
I CAME BACK ALL RIGHT -- BUT WAIT TILL I TELL YOU WHAT I WENT THROUGH BEFORE THE THING WAS OVER!
2

FIRST THING I DID WHEN I GOT BACK TO COLLEGE A FEW DAYS LATER WAS TO LISTEN IN ON THE LOCAL GOSSIP -- AND IT WAS JUST WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF!

SAY, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH BOBBIE LATELY? SHE'S SO MOPEY!

WHO CARES ABOUT THAT? D'JA HEAR THE LATEST? CISSY'S TELLING EVERYBODY SHE'S GOT JIM O'BRIEN TIED AROUND HER FINGER!

WELL SHE HAS! SHE'S WEARING HIS RING!

HMMPH! I'LL FIX THAT! DON'T YOU CRY NOW, KID! I'LL FIND THAT BIG LUNK RIGHT NOW, AND JERK THAT ARROW OUT OF HIM!

WELL, FINDING HIM WAS EASY ENOUGH, HE WAS PLAYING TENNIS, AND THERE WAS CISSY SHOWING HERSELF OFF AS HIS GIRL FRIEND. BUT GETTING THAT ARROW OUT OF HIM WAS QUITE A ROUGH JOB AS YOU'LL AGREE WHEN YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED! NOW! JUST ONE GOOD YANK ON THAT ARROW, AND---

HAVE IT OUT IN A JIFFY AND -- HEY! WATCH IT!

WHOOOPS!

DOGGONE IT -- SLOW DOWN WAIT FOR BABY!

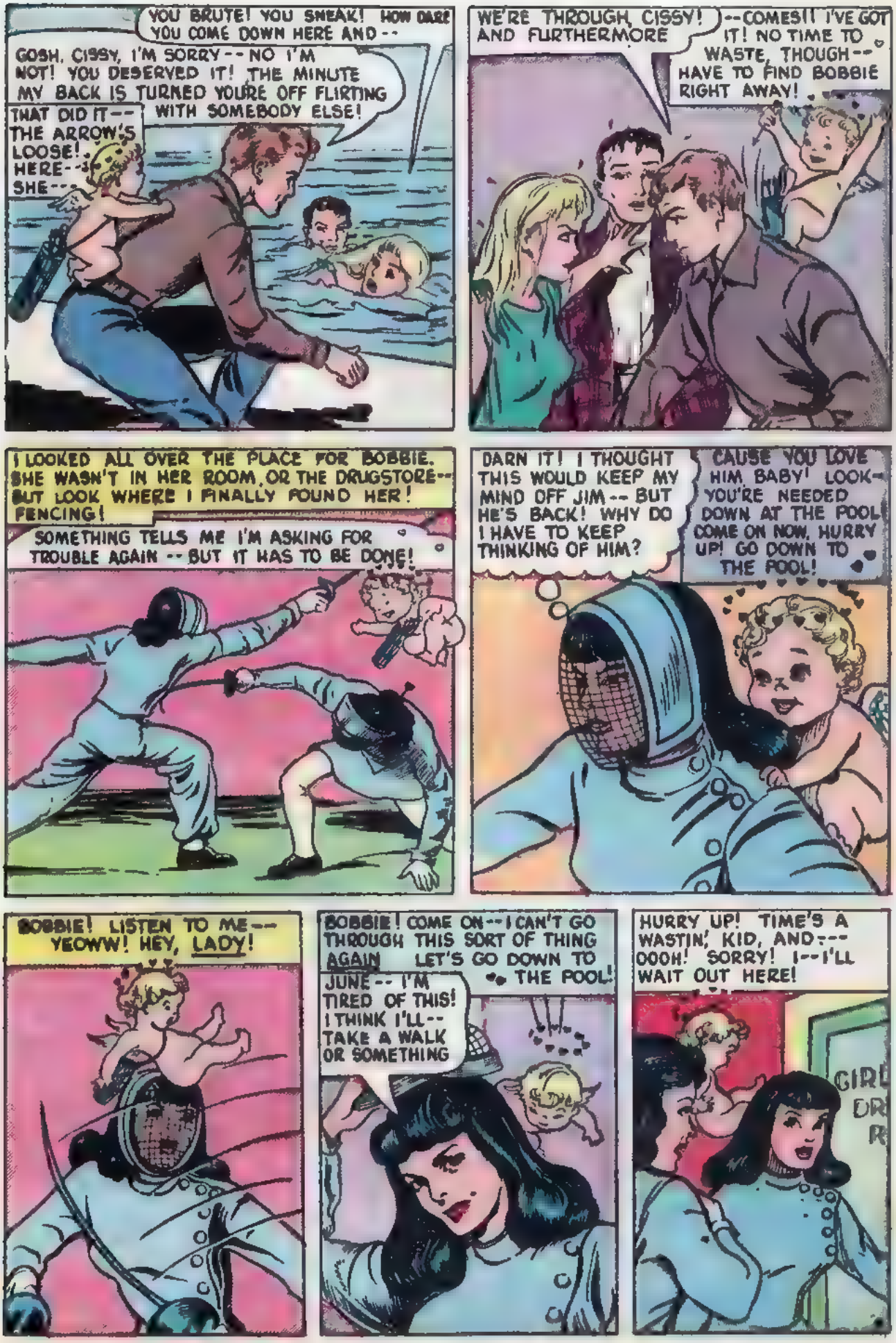
WOOWW! WHAT IS THIS, THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE?!

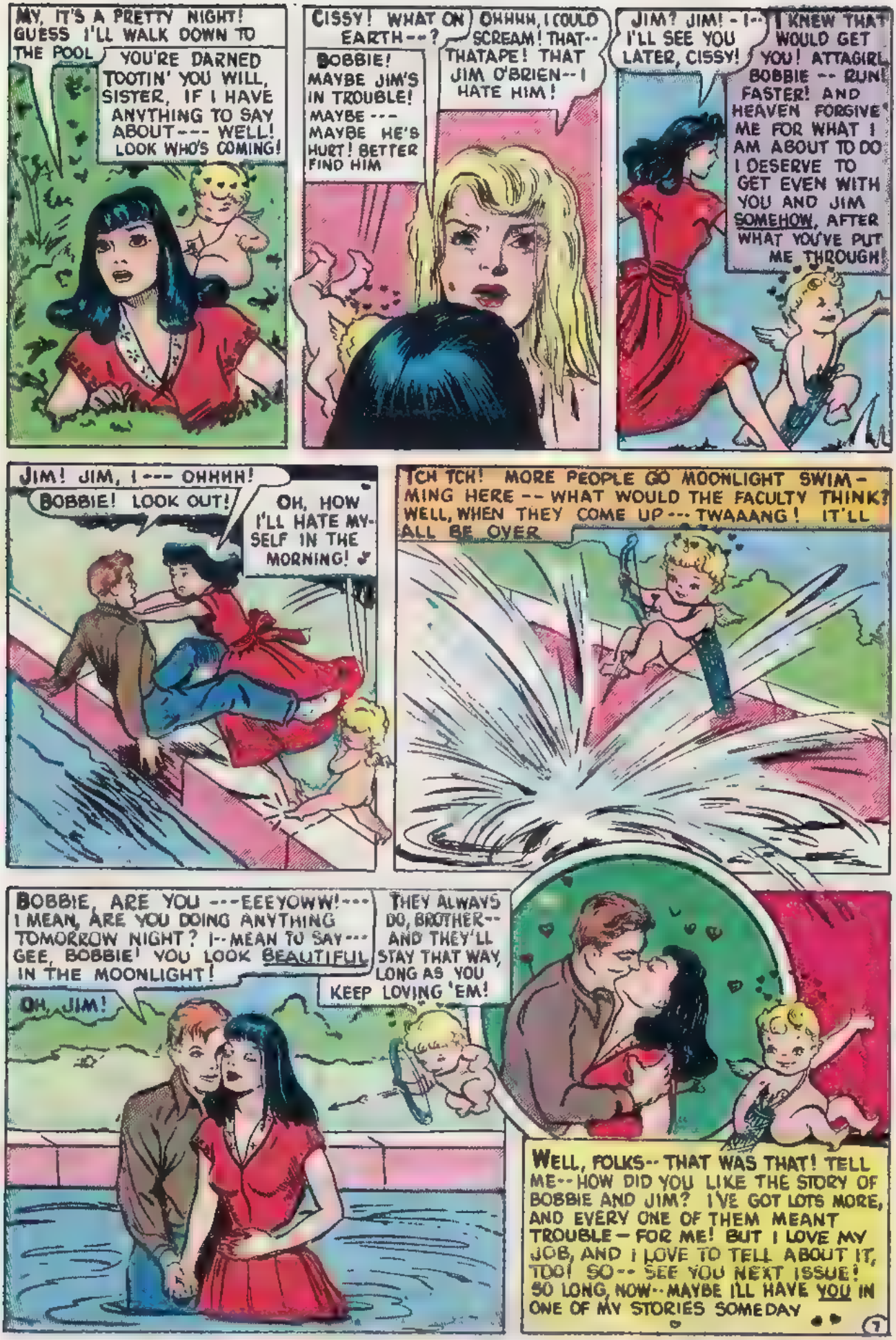
NOW -- I'VE GOT IT! UGGGHH! COME ON -- ARROW! AWW, IT'S NO USE! GUESS IT'S IN TOO DEEP EVEN FOR ME!

WHY DID I HAVE TO SHOOT THAT ARROW SO HARD? WELL, I'LL HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE. NOW, IF I CAN JUST THROW BOBBIE AND JIM TOGETHER A FEW TIMES, MAYBE --

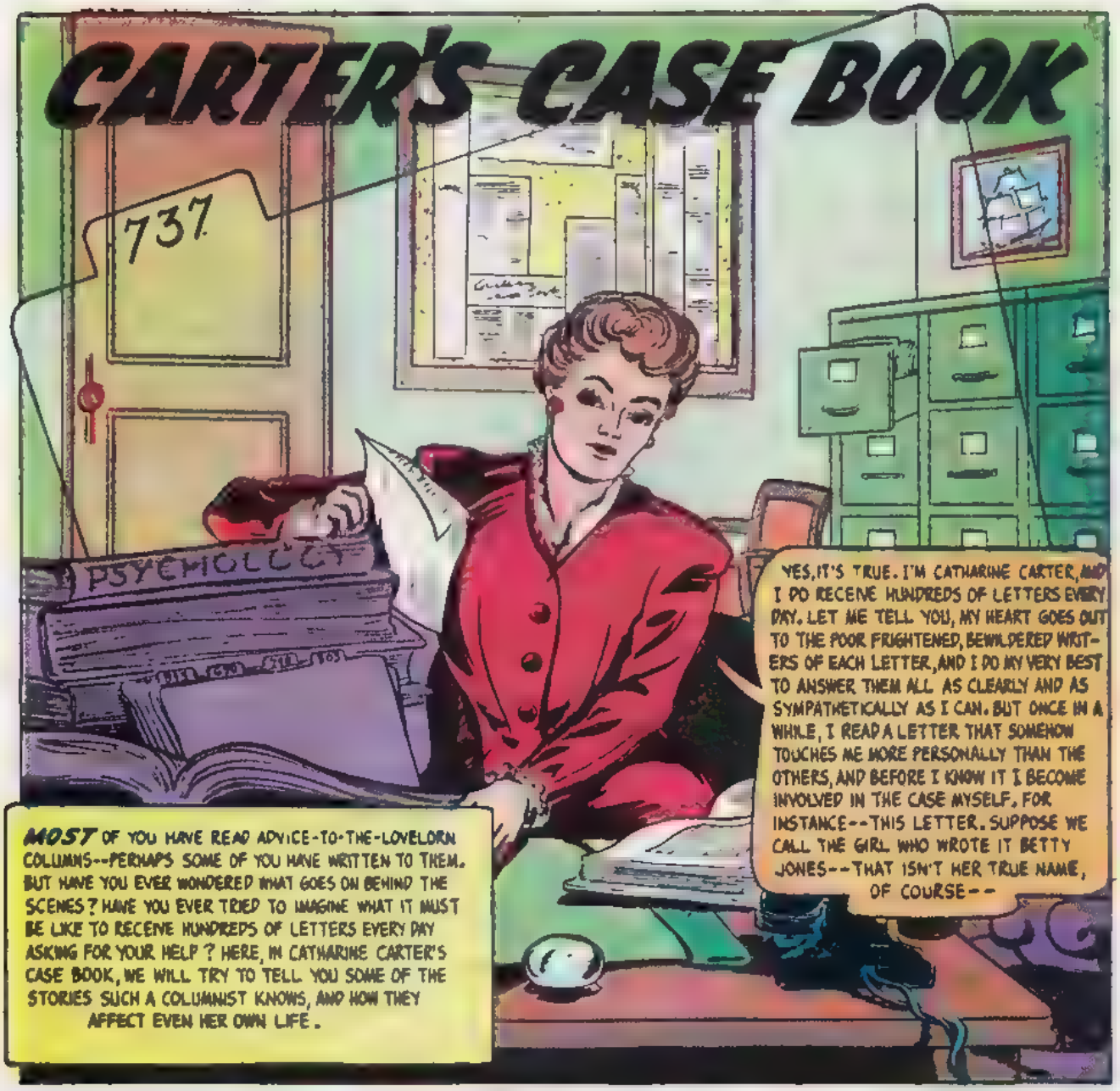
WELL, I TRIED IT -- BUT IT JUST DIDN'T WORK. THEY SAY LOVE IS BLIND, AND JIM WAS A FINE ARGUMENT TO PROVE IT. HE JUST COULDN'T SEE BOBBIE AT ALL. I TRIED ALL KINDS OF TRICKS -- FOR INSTANCE ---
HURRY UP, BOBBIE! GET TO THE CORNER AND THEN TURN RIGHT, TURN RIGHT! PLEASE TURN RIGHT!
OOOHH! OH, JIM! GOSH, HOW-- HOW ARE YOU, AND--
I'M SORRY BOBBIE! DID I HURT YOU? WELL, I'VE GOT TO HURRY ALONG.
THERE! NOW LOOK AT HER, YOU DOPE LOOK AT HER EYES SHE LOVES YOU
GOT A DATE WITH CISSY- SEE YOU AROUND
COME BACK HERE, YOU APE! WHADDYA MEAN, BREAKING POOR LITTLE GIRL'S HEART! SHE'S THE RIGHT GIRL FOR YOU, CAN'T YOU SEE? AHHH -- WHAT'S THE USE!?
FINALLY, I TOOK TO TRAILING CISSY AROUND. MAYBE IT WAS A DIRTY TRICK, BUT I FIGURED THAT IF I COULD SHOW JIM WHAT KIND OF GIRL SHE REALLY WAS, IT MIGHT LOOSEN UP THAT ARROW. CISSY FLIRTED A LOT -- BUT NOT IN FRONT OF JIM -- OH NO! STILL I WAS PATIENT -- AND ONE DAY THE CHANCE I WANTED CAME ----
OH, COME ON, CISSY -- DON'T BE A DUD HOW ABOUT A RIDE IN MY NEW CAR TONIGHT?
HEY CISSY! TELEPHONE
WHY, ARNOLD, YOU KNOW I HAVE A STEADY DATE WITH ---
HELLO -- OH, JIM DARLING! I'M GLAD WHAT! YOU CAN'T KEEP OUR DATE TONIGHT? BUT JIM ---!
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, CISSY, BUT I HAVE TO CRAM FOR AN EXAM TOMORROW! YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?
OF COURSE I DO, JIMMY! BUT GEE --- I'LL BE SO LONESOME, SITTING AT HOME JUST THINKING ABOUT YOU! WELL -- BYE NOW, DARLING!
SITTING AT HOME -- HAH! NOT LITTLE CISSY! IF HE'S WILLING TO LEAVE ME ALONE -- HE'LL HAVE TO TAKE HIS CHANCES! I CAN HAVE A DOZEN DATES FOR TONIGHT!
UH-OH! I KNOW JUST WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, MY SWEET - AND I KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT!
OH, ARNOLD -- WHAT WERE YOU SAYING ABOUT A NEW CAR --?
ATTAGIRL, CIS! WHAT TIME SHALL I PICK YOU UP!
AND ME, ARNOLD -- YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE HITCHHIKER TONIGHT!
4

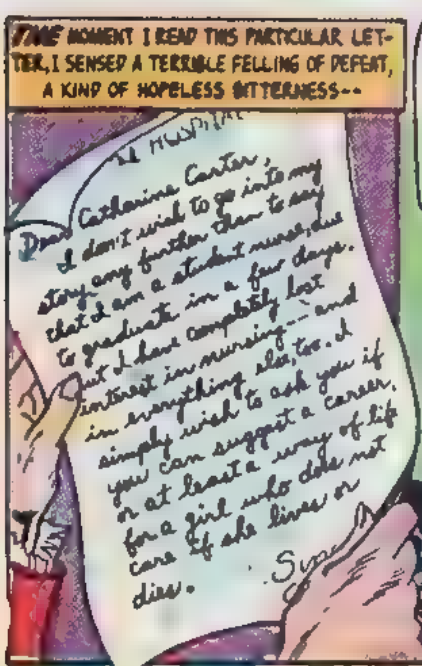
SAY, THE POOL LOOKS PRETTY IN THE MOONLIGHT, CISSY! WHAT SAY WE--- WALK AROUND A BIT?
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA-- IT'S--ROMANTIC HERE
UH-HUH! I THOUGHT SO! TCH TCH!
YOU'RE GORGEOUS, CISSY! HOW ABOUT JUST ONE LITTLE KISS, HUH?
WHY, ARNOLD,-- I HARDLY KNOW YOU! BUT--WELL-- I MIGHT BE TALKED INTO IT!
I KNEW IT! YAHOO! IF I CAN JUST GET JIM DOWN HERE FAST ENOUGH, I'M IN!
AND THEN THE ATOM, IS DIVIDED INTO-- WHEW! THIS IS DULL STUFF! WISH I COULD SEE CISSY RIGHT NOW!
THAT'S JUST WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO, JIM! COME ON-- WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A WALK DOWN BY THE POOL? IT'S A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT! COME ON, JIM!
THE POOL, JIM! POOL, POOL, POOL! TAKE A WALK TO THE POOL!
I SHOULD STUDY, BUT IT'S SO HOT-- I'VE GOT IT! I'LL TAKE A SHORT WALK-- MAYBE DOWN TOWARDS THE POOL.
IT WORKED! AND THEN, WITH JIM HEADED FOR THE POOL, I GOT ANOTHER IDEA--
TAKE A SHORT CUT THROUGH THE BUSHES, JIM--RIGHT TO THE EDGE OF THE POOL!
MIGHT AS WELL CUT THROUGH THOSE BUSHES--
WHOOPS! I BEG YOUR-- CISSY!
HEY! WHAT THE--
JIM! WHY, I-- OHH! I'M FALL----
PERFECT TIMING! DANNY BOY, YOU'RE A GENIUS
HERE! GRAB MY---- OH-OH! TOO LATE!
WHEEEEE! HA HA HA!
HELLPP!
5

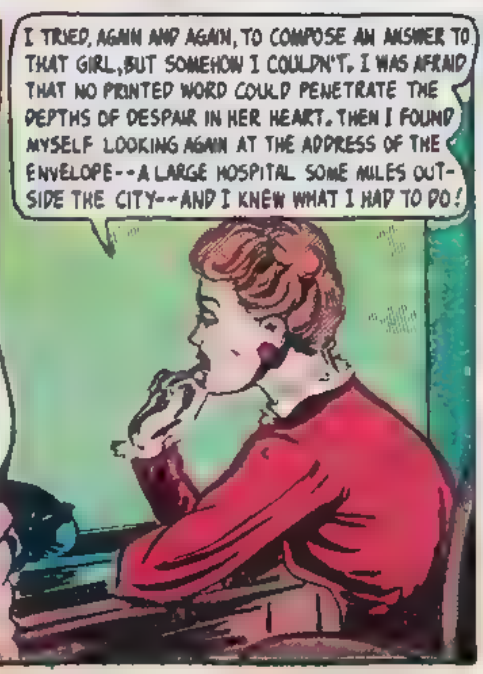

YOU BRUTE! YOU SNEAK! HOW DARE YOU COME DOWN HERE AND --
GOSH, CISSY, I'M SORRY -- NO I'M NOT! YOU DESERVED IT! THE MINUTE MY BACK IS TURNED YOU'RE OFF FLIRTING WITH SOMEBODY ELSE!
THAT DID IT -- THE ARROW'S LOOSE! HERE -- SHE --
WE'RE THROUGH, CISSY! AND FURTHERMORE
--COMES!! I'VE GOT IT! NO TIME TO WASTE, THOUGH -- HAVE TO FIND BOBBIE RIGHT AWAY!
I LOOKED ALL OVER THE PLACE FOR BOBBIE. SHE WASN'T IN HER ROOM, OR THE DRUGSTORE -- BUT LOOK WHERE I FINALLY FOUND HER! FENCING!
SOMETHING TELLS ME I'M ASKING FOR TROUBLE AGAIN -- BUT IT HAS TO BE DONE!
DARN IT! I THOUGHT THIS WOULD KEEP MY MIND OFF JIM -- BUT HE'S BACK! WHY DO I HAVE TO KEEP THINKING OF HIM?
CAUSE YOU LOVE HIM, BABY! LOOK -- YOU'RE NEEDED DOWN AT THE POOL! COME ON NOW, HURRY UP! GO DOWN TO THE POOL!
BOBBIE! LISTEN TO ME -- YEOWW! HEY, LADY!
BOBBIE! COME ON -- I CAN'T GO THROUGH THIS SORT OF THING AGAIN LET'S GO DOWN TO THE POOL!
JUNE -- I'M TIRED OF THIS! I THINK I'LL -- TAKE A WALK OR SOMETHING
HURRY UP! TIME'S A WASTIN', KID, AND -- OOOH! SORRY! I -- I'LL WAIT OUT HERE!


MY, IT'S A PRETTY NIGHT! GUESS I'LL WALK DOWN TO THE POOL
YOU'RE DARNED TOOTIN' YOU WILL, SISTER, IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT--- WELL! LOOK WHO'S COMING!
CISSY! WHAT ON EARTH--?
BOBBIE! MAYBE JIM'S IN TROUBLE! MAYBE --- MAYBE HE'S HURT! BETTER FIND HIM
OHHHH, I COULD SCREAM! THAT-- THATAPE! THAT JIM O'BRIEN-- I HATE HIM!
JIM? JIM! - I-- I'LL SEE YOU LATER, CISSY!
I KNEW THAT WOULD GET YOU! ATTAGIRL, BOBBIE -- RUN! FASTER! AND HEAVEN FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I AM ABOUT TO DO I DESERVE TO GET EVEN WITH YOU AND JIM SOMEHOW, AFTER WHAT YOU'VE PUT ME THROUGH!
JIM! JIM, I --- OHHHH!
BOBBIE! LOOK OUT!
OH, HOW I'LL HATE MYSELF IN THE MORNING!
TCH TCH! MORE PEOPLE GO MOONLIGHT SWIMMING HERE -- WHAT WOULD THE FACULTY THINK? WELL, WHEN THEY COME UP --- TWAAANG! IT'LL ALL BE OVER
BOBBIE, ARE YOU ---EEEYOWW!--- I MEAN, ARE YOU DOING ANYTHING TOMORROW NIGHT? I--MEAN TO SAY--- GEE, BOBBIE! YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL IN THE MOONLIGHT!
OH, JIM!
THEY ALWAYS DO, BROTHER-- AND THEY'LL STAY THAT WAY, LONG AS YOU KEEP LOVING 'EM!
WELL, FOLKS-- THAT WAS THAT! TELL ME-- HOW DID YOU LIKE THE STORY OF BOBBIE AND JIM? I'VE GOT LOTS MORE, AND EVERY ONE OF THEM MEANT TROUBLE - FOR ME! BUT I LOVE MY JOB, AND I LOVE TO TELL ABOUT IT, TOO! SO-- SEE YOU NEXT ISSUE! SO LONG, NOW-- MAYBE I'LL HAVE YOU IN ONE OF MY STORIES SOMEDAY
7

CARTER'S CASE BOOK

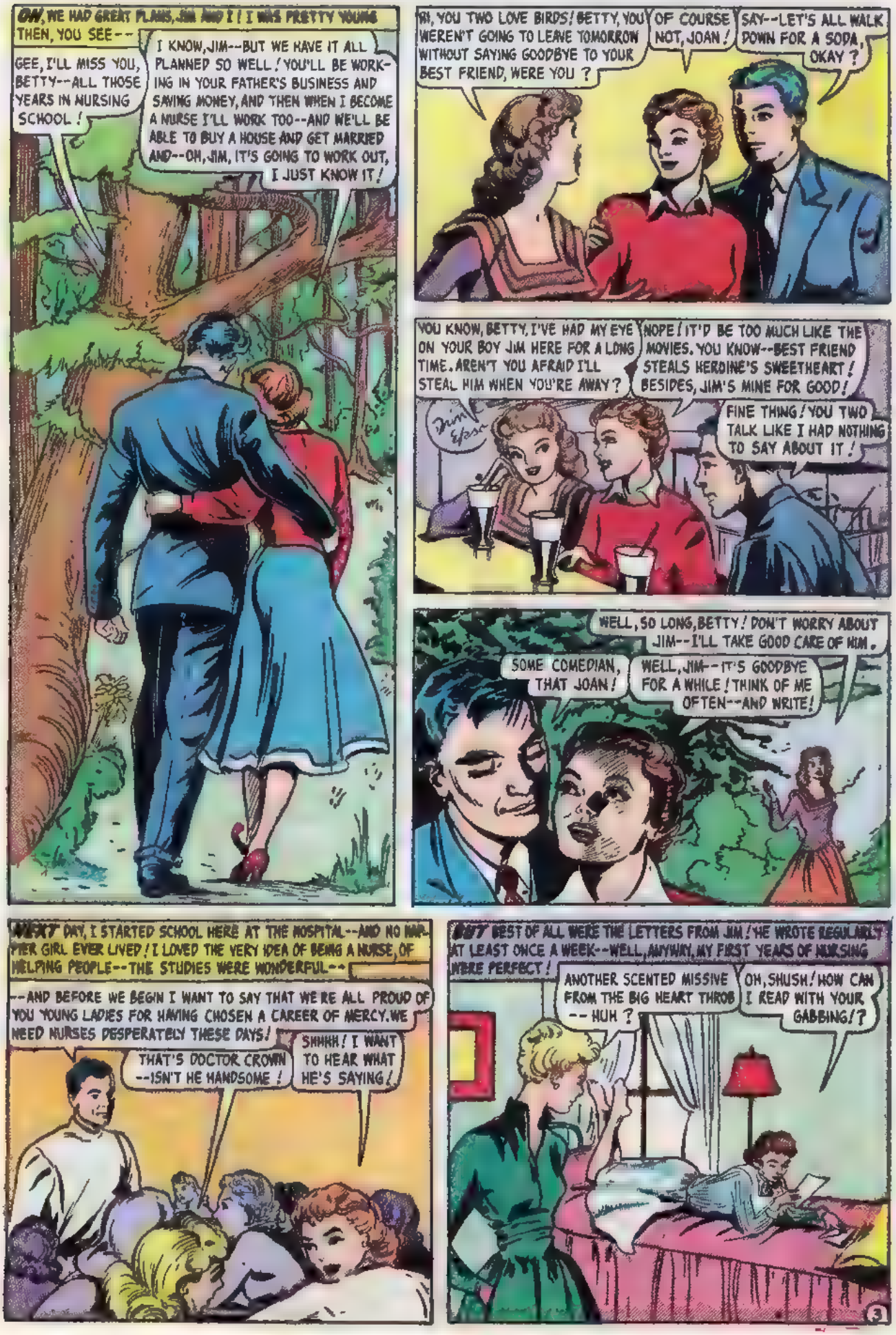

737
PSYCHOLOGY
MOST OF YOU HAVE READ ADVICE-TO-THE-LOVELORN COLUMNS--PERHAPS SOME OF YOU HAVE WRITTEN TO THEM. BUT HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT GOES ON BEHIND THE SCENES? HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO IMAGINE WHAT IT MUST BE LIKE TO RECEIVE HUNDREDS OF LETTERS EVERY DAY ASKING FOR YOUR HELP? HERE, IN CATHARINE CARTER'S CASE BOOK, WE WILL TRY TO TELL YOU SOME OF THE STORIES SUCH A COLUMNIST KNOWS, AND HOW THEY AFFECT EVEN HER OWN LIFE.
YES, IT'S TRUE. I'M CATHARINE CARTER, AND I DO RECEIVE HUNDREDS OF LETTERS EVERY DAY. LET ME TELL YOU, MY HEART GOES OUT TO THE POOR FRIGHTENED, BEWILDERED WRITERS OF EACH LETTER, AND I DO MY VERY BEST TO ANSWER THEM ALL AS CLEARLY AND AS SYMPATHETICALLY AS I CAN. BUT ONCE IN A WHILE, I READ A LETTER THAT SOMEHOW TOUCHES ME MORE PERSONALLY THAN THE OTHERS, AND BEFORE I KNOW IT I BECOME INVOLVED IN THE CASE MYSELF. FOR INSTANCE--THIS LETTER. SUPPOSE WE CALL THE GIRL WHO WROTE IT BETTY JONES--THAT ISN'T HER TRUE NAME, OF COURSE--

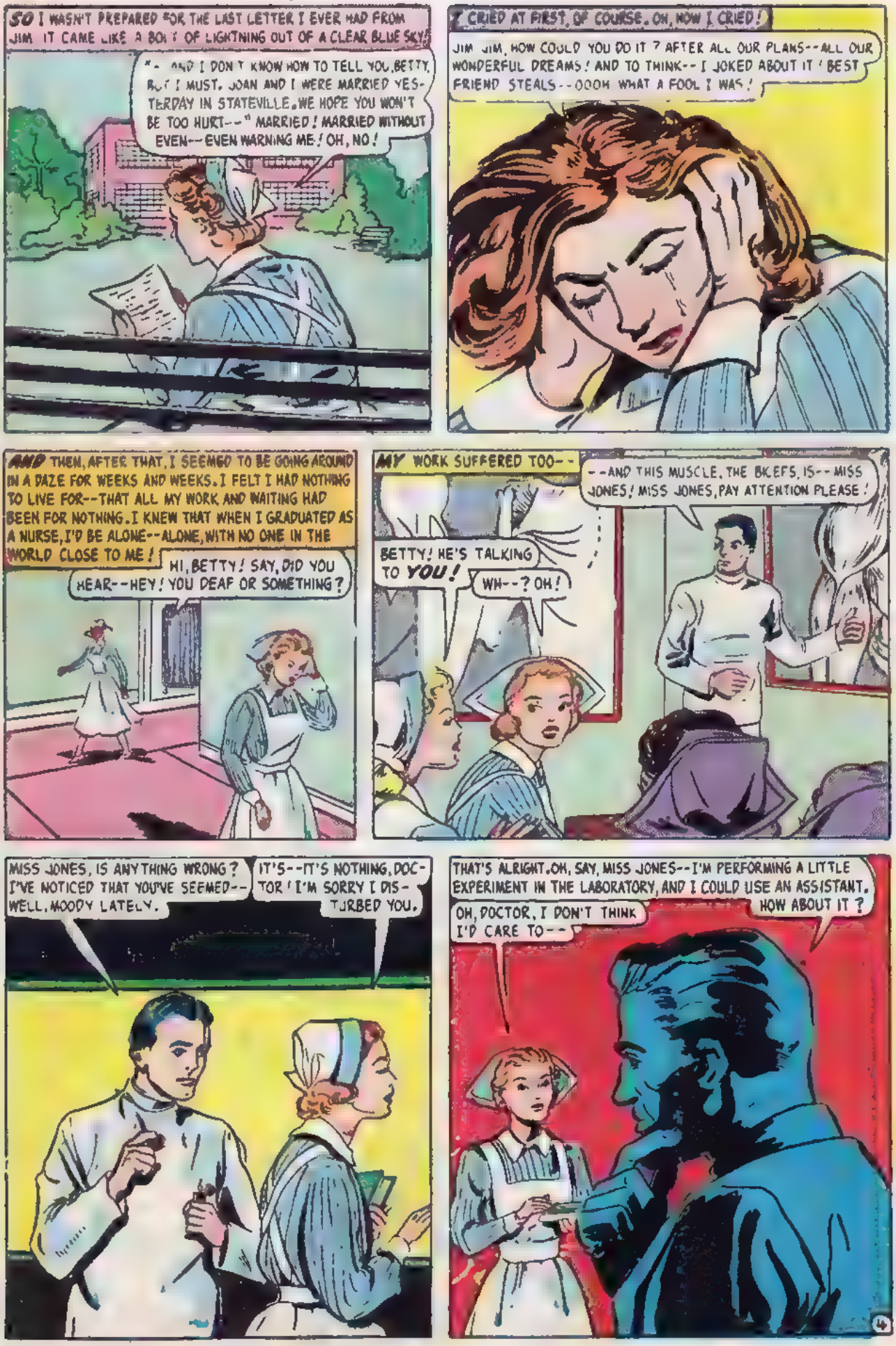

THE MOMENT I READ THIS PARTICULAR LETTER, I SENSED A TERRIBLE FEELING OF DEFEAT, A KIND OF HOPELESS BITTERNESS--
St. Hospital
Dear Catharine Carter,
I don't wish to go into my story any further than to say that I am a student nurse, due to graduate in a few days. But I have completely lost interest in nursing--and in everything else, too. I simply wish to ask you if you can suggest a career, or at least a way of life for a girl who does not care if she lives or dies.
Sue

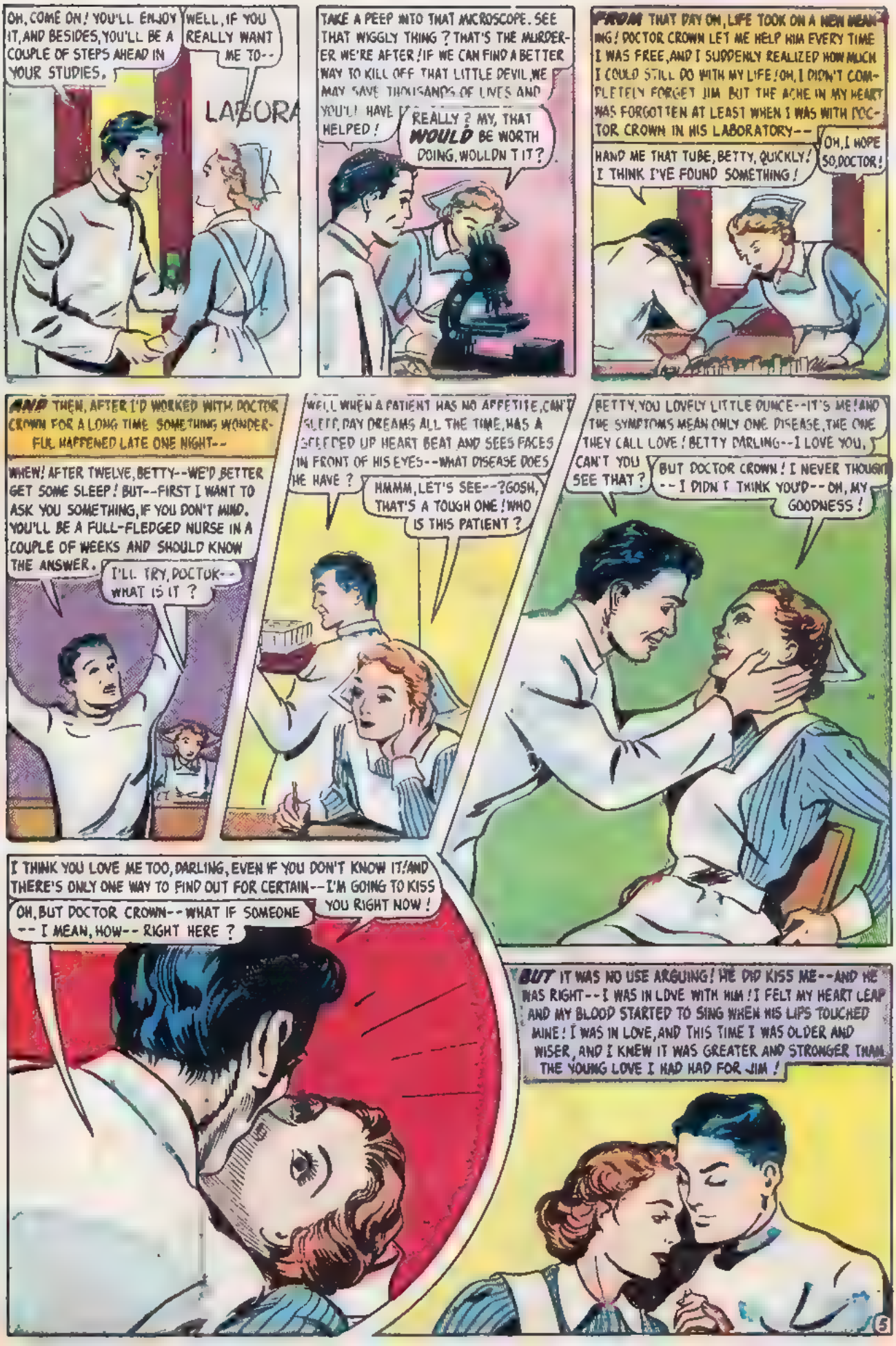

I TRIED, AGAIN AND AGAIN, TO COMPOSE AN ANSWER TO THAT GIRL, BUT SOMEHOW I COULDN'T. I WAS AFRAID THAT NO PRINTED WORD COULD PENETRATE THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR IN HER HEART. THEN I FOUND MYSELF LOOKING AGAIN AT THE ADDRESS OF THE ENVELOPE--A LARGE HOSPITAL SOME MILES OUTSIDE THE CITY--AND I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO!

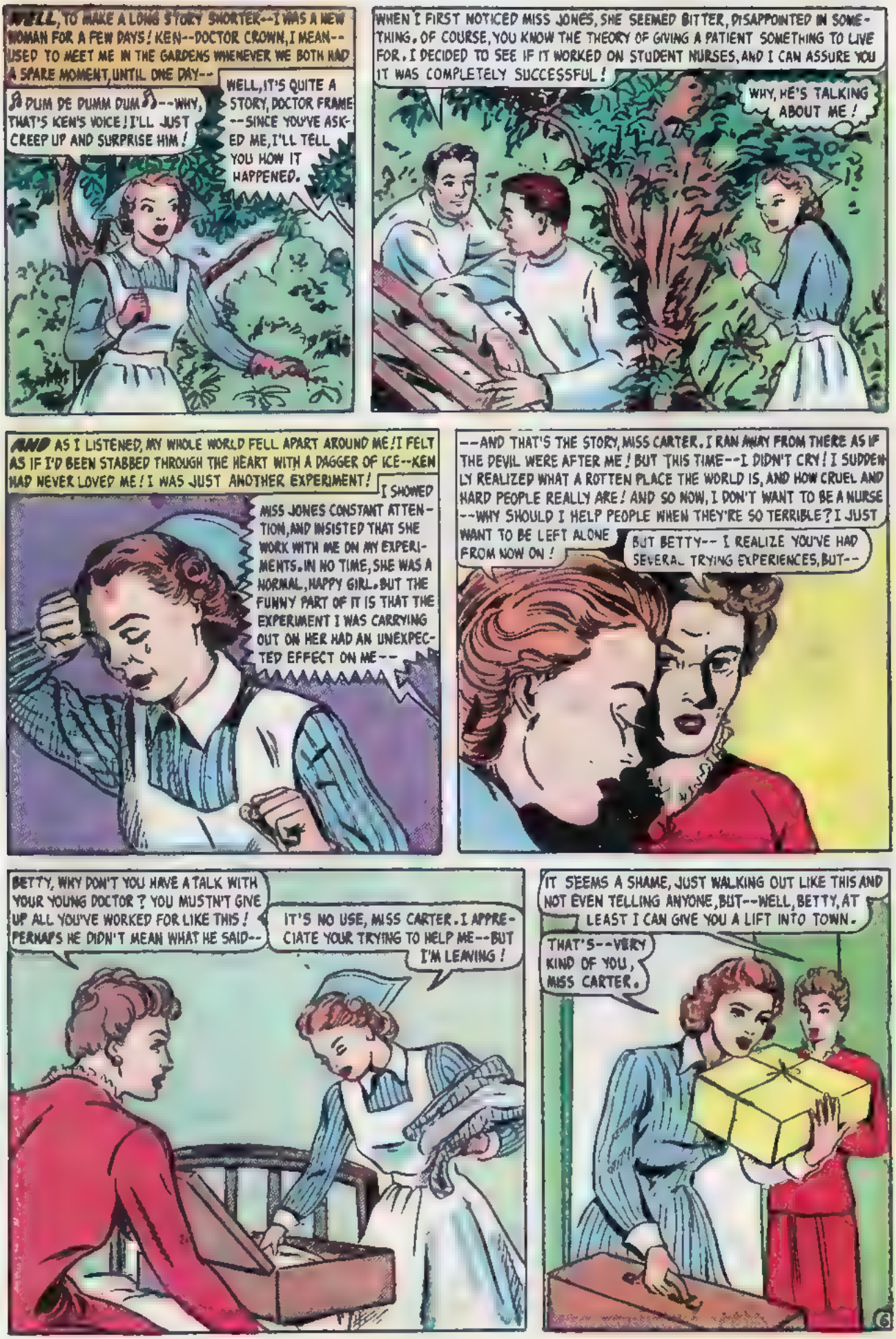
I KNEW THAT IN SPITE OF MYSELF--I HAD TO SEE THAT GIRL!
WELL, HERE I GO AGAIN! I KNOW I CAN'T SPARE THE TIME, AND I KNOW I'M BEING A SENTIMENTAL IDIOT--BUT HERE I GO!

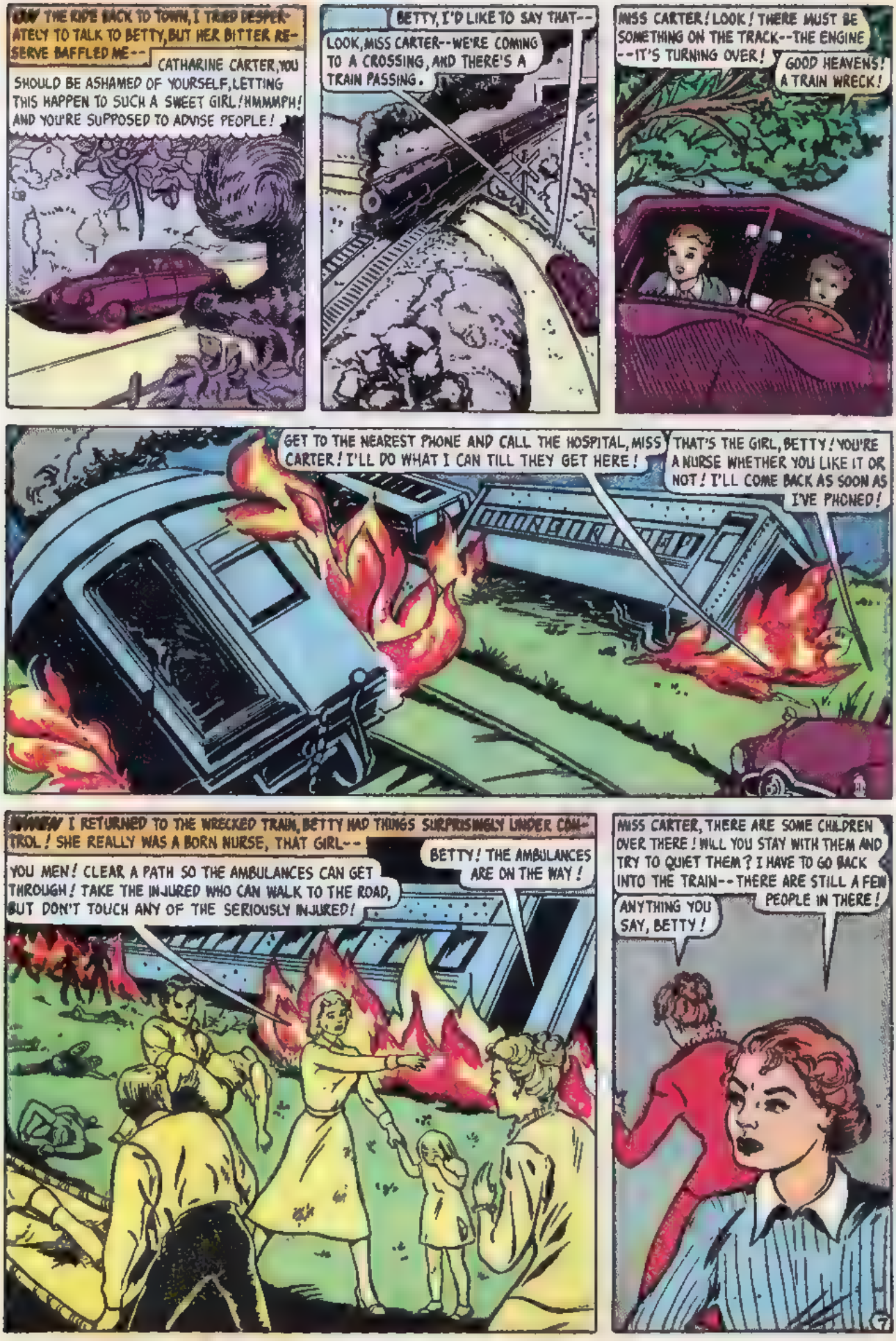
IT WAS A LONG DRIVE TO THE HOSPITAL, BUT I WAS IN LUCK. I ARRIVED DURING VISITING HOURS FOR THE STUDENT NURSES, AND IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS, BETTY JONES APPEARED--
THIS IS YOUR VISITOR, MISS JONES.
GOOD EVENING, BETTY--I'M CATHARINE CARTER!
CATHARINE CARTER! BUT I--I DIDN'T EXPECT--
DON'T BE SURPRISED, CHILD--I OFTEN DO THIS! BUT WE CAN'T VERY WELL TALK HERE, CAN WE?
OH, I'M SORRY! WE CAN GO TO MY ROOM, IF YOU LIKE--IT'S THIS WAY!
WELL--ARE YOU GOING SOMEWHERE?
YES, I--I'M LEAVING, FOR GOOD. BUT--WON'T YOU SIT DOWN FOR A WHILE?
SIT DOWN, BETTY. GET YOURSELF NICE AND COMFORTABLE, BECAUSE WE'RE IN FOR A GOOD LONG TALK--AND YOU'LL BE DOING THE TALKING. I WANT YOU TO TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOURSELF.
I--I'D RATHER NOT, MISS CARTER. IT'S A DULL STORY, REALLY--AND I DON'T FEEL LIKE TALKING ABOUT IT!
BETTY, LISTENING IS MY BUSINESS, AND I'M WONDERFUL AT IT. REALLY, IT'LL DO YOU GOOD TO GET ALL OF IT OFF YOUR CHEST. COME ON NOW, SIT DOWN--
WELL--I GUESS IT CAN'T DO ANY HARM. LET'S SEE--I SUPPOSE IT ALL STARTED WHEN I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL. MY PARENTS DIED WHEN I WAS YOUNG, AND I LIVED IN A SMALL TOWN WITH MY AUNT CARRIE--
AUNT CARRIE WAS NICE TO ME, I GUESS--BUT AFTER ALL, I WASN'T HER CHILD. WE NEVER REALLY BECAME VERY CLOSE TO EACH OTHER--
BETTY, ARE YOU GOING OUT AGAIN TONIGHT? AREN'T YOU RATHER YOUNG TO--
BUT AUNT CARRIE, I'LL BE LEAVING TOMORROW FOR NURSING SCHOOL! I JUST WANT TO SAY GOODBYE TO MY FRIENDS!
OH, LET HER GO--WE HAVE NO CONTROL OVER HER ANYWAY!
I DID WANT TO SAY GOODBYE TO MY FRIENDS, BUT TO ONE IN PARTICULAR--JIM BROOKS. YOU SEE, I WAS IN LOVE WITH JIM--OR I THOUGHT I WAS.
BETTY! I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER GET OUT!
WELL, I'M HERE NOW, JIM--LET'S TAKE A LONG WALK!
2


OH, WE HAD GREAT PLANS, JIM AND I! I WAS PRETTY YOUNG THEN, YOU SEE--
GEE, I'LL MISS YOU, BETTY--ALL THOSE YEARS IN NURSING SCHOOL!
I KNOW, JIM--BUT WE HAVE IT ALL PLANNED SO WELL! YOU'LL BE WORKING IN YOUR FATHER'S BUSINESS AND SAVING MONEY, AND THEN WHEN I BECOME A NURSE I'LL WORK TOO--AND WE'LL BE ABLE TO BUY A HOUSE AND GET MARRIED AND--OH, JIM, IT'S GOING TO WORK OUT, I JUST KNOW IT!
HI, YOU TWO LOVE BIRDS! BETTY, YOU WEREN'T GOING TO LEAVE TOMORROW WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE TO YOUR BEST FRIEND, WERE YOU?
OF COURSE NOT, JOAN!
SAY--LET'S ALL WALK DOWN FOR A SODA, OKAY?
YOU KNOW, BETTY, I'VE HAD MY EYE ON YOUR BOY JIM HERE FOR A LONG TIME. AREN'T YOU AFRAID I'LL STEAL HIM WHEN YOU'RE AWAY?
NOPE! IT'D BE TOO MUCH LIKE THE MOVIES. YOU KNOW--BEST FRIEND STEALS HEROINE'S SWEETHEART! BESIDES, JIM'S MINE FOR GOOD!
FINE THING! YOU TWO TALK LIKE I HAD NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!
WELL, SO LONG, BETTY! DON'T WORRY ABOUT JIM--I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM.
SOME COMEDIAN, THAT JOAN!
WELL, JIM--IT'S GOODBYE FOR A WHILE! THINK OF ME OFTEN--AND WRITE!
NEXT DAY, I STARTED SCHOOL HERE AT THE HOSPITAL--AND NO HAPPIER GIRL EVER LIVED! I LOVED THE VERY IDEA OF BEING A NURSE, OF HELPING PEOPLE--THE STUDIES WERE WONDERFUL--
--AND BEFORE WE BEGIN I WANT TO SAY THAT WE'RE ALL PROUD OF YOU YOUNG LADIES FOR HAVING CHOSEN A CAREER OF MERCY. WE NEED NURSES DESPERATELY THESE DAYS!
THAT'S DOCTOR CROWN --ISN'T HE HANDSOME!
SHHHH! I WANT TO HEAR WHAT HE'S SAYING!
BUT BEST OF ALL WERE THE LETTERS FROM JIM! HE WROTE REGULARLY AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK--WELL, ANYWAY, MY FIRST YEARS OF NURSING WERE PERFECT!
ANOTHER SCENTED MISSIVE FROM THE BIG HEART THROB --HUH?
OH, SHUSH! HOW CAN I READ WITH YOUR GABBING!?
3


SO I WASN'T PREPARED FOR THE LAST LETTER I EVER HAD FROM JIM. IT CAME LIKE A BOLT OF LIGHTNING OUT OF A CLEAR BLUE SKY!
"- AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TELL YOU, BETTY, BUT I MUST. JOAN AND I WERE MARRIED YESTERDAY IN STATEVILLE. WE HOPE YOU WON'T BE TOO HURT--" MARRIED! MARRIED WITHOUT EVEN--EVEN WARNING ME! OH, NO!
I CRIED AT FIRST, OF COURSE. OH, HOW I CRIED!
JIM JIM, HOW COULD YOU DO IT? AFTER ALL OUR PLANS--ALL OUR WONDERFUL DREAMS! AND TO THINK--I JOKED ABOUT IT! BEST FRIEND STEALS--OOOH WHAT A FOOL I WAS!
AND THEN, AFTER THAT, I SEEMED TO BE GOING AROUND IN A DAZE FOR WEEKS AND WEEKS. I FELT I HAD NOTHING TO LIVE FOR--THAT ALL MY WORK AND WAITING HAD BEEN FOR NOTHING. I KNEW THAT WHEN I GRADUATED AS A NURSE, I'D BE ALONE--ALONE, WITH NO ONE IN THE WORLD CLOSE TO ME!
HI, BETTY! SAY, DID YOU HEAR--HEY! YOU DEAF OR SOMETHING?
MY WORK SUFFERED TOO--
--AND THIS MUSCLE, THE BICEPS, IS--MISS JONES! MISS JONES, PAY ATTENTION PLEASE!
BETTY! HE'S TALKING TO YOU!
WH--? OH!
MISS JONES, IS ANYTHING WRONG? I'VE NOTICED THAT YOU'VE SEEMED--WELL, MOODY LATELY.
IT'S--IT'S NOTHING, DOCTOR! I'M SORRY I DISTURBED YOU.
THAT'S ALRIGHT. OH, SAY, MISS JONES--I'M PERFORMING A LITTLE EXPERIMENT IN THE LABORATORY, AND I COULD USE AN ASSISTANT. HOW ABOUT IT?
OH, DOCTOR, I DON'T THINK I'D CARE TO--
4


OH, COME ON! YOU'LL ENJOY IT, AND BESIDES, YOU'LL BE A COUPLE OF STEPS AHEAD IN YOUR STUDIES.
WELL, IF YOU REALLY WANT ME TO--
LABORA
TAKE A PEEP INTO THAT MICROSCOPE. SEE THAT WIGGLY THING? THAT'S THE MURDERER WE'RE AFTER! IF WE CAN FIND A BETTER WAY TO KILL OFF THAT LITTLE DEVIL, WE MAY SAVE THOUSANDS OF LIVES AND YOU'LL HAVE HELPED!
REALLY? MY, THAT WOULD BE WORTH DOING, WOULDN'T IT?
FROM THAT DAY ON, LIFE TOOK ON A NEW MEANING! DOCTOR CROWN LET ME HELP HIM EVERY TIME I WAS FREE, AND I SUDDENLY REALIZED HOW MUCH I COULD STILL DO WITH MY LIFE! OH, I DIDN'T COMPLETELY FORGET JIM BUT THE ACHE IN MY HEART WAS FORGOTTEN AT LEAST WHEN I WAS WITH DOCTOR CROWN IN HIS LABORATORY--
HAND ME THAT TUBE, BETTY, QUICKLY! I THINK I'VE FOUND SOMETHING!
OH, I HOPE SO, DOCTOR!
AND THEN, AFTER I'D WORKED WITH DOCTOR CROWN FOR A LONG TIME SOMETHING WONDERFUL HAPPENED LATE ONE NIGHT--
WHEW! AFTER TWELVE, BETTY--WE'D BETTER GET SOME SLEEP! BUT--FIRST I WANT TO ASK YOU SOMETHING, IF YOU DON'T MIND. YOU'LL BE A FULL-FLEDGED NURSE IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS AND SHOULD KNOW THE ANSWER.
I'LL TRY, DOCTOR--WHAT IS IT?
WELL, WHEN A PATIENT HAS NO APPETITE, CAN'T SLEEP, DAY DREAMS ALL THE TIME, HAS A SPEEDED UP HEART BEAT AND SEES FACES IN FRONT OF HIS EYES--WHAT DISEASE DOES HE HAVE?
HMMM, LET'S SEE--? GOSH, THAT'S A TOUGH ONE! WHO IS THIS PATIENT?
BETTY, YOU LOVELY LITTLE DUNCE--IT'S ME! AND THE SYMPTOMS MEAN ONLY ONE DISEASE, THE ONE THEY CALL LOVE! BETTY DARLING--I LOVE YOU, CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?
BUT DOCTOR CROWN! I NEVER THOUGHT--I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D--OH, MY GOODNESS!
I THINK YOU LOVE ME TOO, DARLING, EVEN IF YOU DON'T KNOW IT! AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT FOR CERTAIN--I'M GOING TO KISS YOU RIGHT NOW!
OH, BUT DOCTOR CROWN--WHAT IF SOMEONE--I MEAN, HOW--RIGHT HERE?
BUT IT WAS NO USE ARGUING! HE DID KISS ME--AND HE WAS RIGHT--I WAS IN LOVE WITH HIM! I FELT MY HEART LEAP AND MY BLOOD STARTED TO SING WHEN HIS LIPS TOUCHED MINE! I WAS IN LOVE, AND THIS TIME I WAS OLDER AND WISER, AND I KNEW IT WAS GREATER AND STRONGER THAN THE YOUNG LOVE I HAD HAD FOR JIM!
5


WELL, TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORTER--I WAS A NEW WOMAN FOR A FEW DAYS! KEN--DOCTOR CROWN, I MEAN--USED TO MEET ME IN THE GARDENS WHENEVER WE BOTH HAD A SPARE MOMENT, UNTIL ONE DAY--
DUM DE DUMM DUM--WHY, THAT'S KEN'S VOICE! I'LL JUST CREEP UP AND SURPRISE HIM!
WELL, IT'S QUITE A STORY, DOCTOR FRAME--SINCE YOU'VE ASKED ME, I'LL TELL YOU HOW IT HAPPENED.
WHEN I FIRST NOTICED MISS JONES, SHE SEEMED BITTER, DISAPPOINTED IN SOMETHING. OF COURSE, YOU KNOW THE THEORY OF GIVING A PATIENT SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR. I DECIDED TO SEE IF IT WORKED ON STUDENT NURSES, AND I CAN ASSURE YOU IT WAS COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL!
WHY, HE'S TALKING ABOUT ME!
AND AS I LISTENED, MY WHOLE WORLD FELL APART AROUND ME! I FELT AS IF I'D BEEN STABBED THROUGH THE HEART WITH A DAGGER OF ICE--KEN HAD NEVER LOVED ME! I WAS JUST ANOTHER EXPERIMENT!
I SHOWED MISS JONES CONSTANT ATTENTION, AND INSISTED THAT SHE WORK WITH ME ON MY EXPERIMENTS. IN NO TIME, SHE WAS A NORMAL, HAPPY GIRL. BUT THE FUNNY PART OF IT IS THAT THE EXPERIMENT I WAS CARRYING OUT ON HER HAD AN UNEXPECTED EFFECT ON ME--
--AND THAT'S THE STORY, MISS CARTER. I RAN AWAY FROM THERE AS IF THE DEVIL WERE AFTER ME! BUT THIS TIME--I DIDN'T CRY! I SUDDENLY REALIZED WHAT A ROTTEN PLACE THE WORLD IS, AND HOW CRUEL AND HARD PEOPLE REALLY ARE! AND SO NOW, I DON'T WANT TO BE A NURSE--WHY SHOULD I HELP PEOPLE WHEN THEY'RE SO TERRIBLE? I JUST WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE FROM NOW ON!
BUT BETTY-- I REALIZE YOU'VE HAD SEVERAL TRYING EXPERIENCES, BUT--
BETTY, WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A TALK WITH YOUR YOUNG DOCTOR? YOU MUSTN'T GIVE UP ALL YOU'VE WORKED FOR LIKE THIS! PERHAPS HE DIDN'T MEAN WHAT HE SAID--
IT'S NO USE, MISS CARTER. I APPRECIATE YOUR TRYING TO HELP ME--BUT I'M LEAVING!
IT SEEMS A SHAME, JUST WALKING OUT LIKE THIS AND NOT EVEN TELLING ANYONE, BUT--WELL, BETTY, AT LEAST I CAN GIVE YOU A LIFT INTO TOWN.
THAT'S--VERY KIND OF YOU, MISS CARTER.
6


ON THE RIDE BACK TO TOWN, I TRIED DESPERATELY TO TALK TO BETTY, BUT HER BITTER RESERVE BAFFLED ME--
CATHARINE CARTER, YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF, LETTING THIS HAPPEN TO SUCH A SWEET GIRL! HMMMPH! AND YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO ADVISE PEOPLE!
BETTY, I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT--
LOOK, MISS CARTER--WE'RE COMING TO A CROSSING, AND THERE'S A TRAIN PASSING.
MISS CARTER! LOOK! THERE MUST BE SOMETHING ON THE TRACK--THE ENGINE --IT'S TURNING OVER!
GOOD HEAVENS! A TRAIN WRECK!
GET TO THE NEAREST PHONE AND CALL THE HOSPITAL, MISS CARTER! I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TILL THEY GET HERE!
THAT'S THE GIRL, BETTY! YOU'RE A NURSE WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT! I'LL COME BACK AS SOON AS I'VE PHONED!
WHEN I RETURNED TO THE WRECKED TRAIN, BETTY HAD THINGS SURPRISINGLY UNDER CONTROL! SHE REALLY WAS A BORN NURSE, THAT GIRL--
YOU MEN! CLEAR A PATH SO THE AMBULANCES CAN GET THROUGH! TAKE THE INJURED WHO CAN WALK TO THE ROAD, BUT DON'T TOUCH ANY OF THE SERIOUSLY INJURED!
BETTY! THE AMBULANCES ARE ON THE WAY!
MISS CARTER, THERE ARE SOME CHILDREN OVER THERE! WILL YOU STAY WITH THEM AND TRY TO QUIET THEM? I HAVE TO GO BACK INTO THE TRAIN--THERE ARE STILL A FEW PEOPLE IN THERE!
ANYTHING YOU SAY, BETTY!
7

BETTY WAS A WHIRLWIND OF ENERGY UNTIL THE AMBULANCES ARRIVED, AND RIGHT ON THROUGH THE REST OF THE TERRIBLE HOUR IT TOOK TO FIND AND RESCUE THE MANY INJURED--
ORDERLIES! OVER HERE--WE NEED MORE STRETCHERS! SEND A DOCTOR FOR THAT WOMAN BY THE DINING CAR!
I WAS KEPT PRETTY BUSY MYSELF, TOO--BUT AS THE LAST AMBULANCE PULLED AWAY, I SAW MY CHANCE TO TRY TO ACCOMPLISH THE JOB I HAD ORIGINALLY COME TO DO--
WELL, THAT'S IT, DOCTOR CROWN! IT'S OVER!
SO THAT'S DOCTOR CROWN! HMMM--I CAN SEE WHY BETTY FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM!
I BEG YOUR PARDON! DID YOU SAY YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME? I'M RATHER BUSY--
YOU'RE NOT TOO BUSY FOR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY! THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW--
BETTY--LOOK, CHILD! I'VE BROUGHT YOU ANOTHER MAN WHO NEEDS HELP!
OH--ALRIGHT. JUST WAIT TILL I--CLEAR MY HEAD, AND--
KEN! KEN, I--
BETTY, IT'S TRUE--I DO NEED YOUR HELP! I'VE BEEN MISERABLE SINCE YOU REFUSED TO SEE ME, AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHY UNTIL MISS CARTER TOLD ME!
WAIT, BETTY, BEFORE YOU SAY ANYTHING! IT'S TRUE THAT I FIRST BECAME INTERESTED IN YOU AS A SORT OF EXPERIMENT--BUT IF YOU'D WAITED THAT DAY, YOU'D HAVE HEARD ME TELL DOCTOR FRAME THAT IN THE END I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU! IT'S TRUE, BETTY--I LOVE YOU MORE THAN I CAN SAY!
OH, KEN--DARLING!
WELL, YOU TWO, I GUESS IT'S TIME FOR ME TO BE GETTING ALONG! YOU WON'T NEED THAT RIDE TO TOWN NOW, BETTY!
BUT--MISS CARTER! DON'T GO! WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN!--IT'S ALL DUE TO YOU!
DON'T THANK ME, CHILD--IT'S ALL IN MY DAY'S WORK! TRAIN WRECKS, BROKEN HEARTS, HANDSOME DOCTORS--I'M USED TO IT! GOODBYE, AND GOOD LUCK--YOU HAPPY PEOPLE!
AND THAT'S THE STORY--CASE HISTORY #737. I WISH IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO TAKE SUCH A PERSONAL INTEREST IN EVERY LETTER I RECEIVE, SO THAT I COULD TELL YOU EACH STORY. BUT AT ANY RATE, I'LL BE BACK SOON TO BRING YOU ANOTHER TRUE ADVENTURE FROM CATHARINE CARTER'S CASE BOOK!
8

"But, gee, Dad. I love Harold and Harold loves me."

"You've already said that."

"Have I? Well, we're slap-happy about the whole thing."

Mr. Brown started to pace the floor.

"Of course," he admitted, "a salesman, if he's a good one, can advance rapidly. I don't suppose you'll *always* be earning twenty a week."

Mrs. Brown thought it was time to drag in the feminine angle.

"What about your personal habits, Harold?" she asked. "You are trustworthy, I presume?"

"Oh, but yes."

"And honest?"

"By all means."

"And faithful?"

Helen was furious.

"Of course he'll be faithful," she cried. "Won't you, Harold?"

"Aw—let's go to a movie. Your old man gives me the hives."

"See here, my lad," Mr. Brown roared. "We've got to know what sort of a man our little girl intends to rope in—er—er—I mean, intends to marry."

"I heard you the first time, Mr. Brown."

"Now then, Harold—do you drink?"

"Yes sir—every now and then."

"Oh—given to alcoholic fits, eh?"

"No sir—I mean—that on some occasions I—"

"We can't have any drunks in this family. You understand that, don't you?"

"I suppose you were *born* with that tomato hanging over your mouth."

* * * * *

HELEN threw her arms around her boy friend's shoulders.

"But dad," she groaned, "I love Harold, and—"

"And Harold loves you. Yes, we know all about that. But will Harold make you a good husband. That's something that we *don't* know."

"But if we love each other how can we *fail* to be happy?"

"Don't ask *me* how you can fail. You'll find a way. They all do. What I want to know is this: Is this donkey the right man for you?"

"Oh, Dad, don't talk like that. You'll make Harold feel like a bum."

"On twenty dollars a week he can't feel like a playboy. He couldn't buy you a second hand girdle."

At this point Harold came to his own defense. He rose to his feet slowly. With a low bow to Mr. Brown he quietly remarked: "If you don't mind my saying so, sir—I think you're a heel."

And Harold resumed his seat. Mr. Brown was trying desperately not to swallow his uppers. He only had one set. Poor little Helen commenced to weep.

"And I thought you'd hit it off so well," she moaned.

"Oh," her father replied, "we'll hit it off alright. If this mousetrap seller will stand up for a minute I'll dust off his jaw with a right hook. He can't insult me in my own house. Or can he?"

Mrs. Brown stepped between them.

"Please," she said, "not in the parlor. There isn't room enough for my husband to fall."

And Harold was ready to take a powder. And I don't mean headache powder.

"I gotta go," he said, "and when you gotta go —you gotta go."

"Oh, Harold," said the weeping Helen, "you're not forgetting your proposal?"

"Forgetting? Lady, I *have* forgotten."

* * * * *

"SEE here, you young squirt," Mr. Brown roared, "if I ever catch you in my daughter's company again I'll skin you alive."

"Listen, you old gas bag," Harold snarled, "If I'm ever caught in your daughter's company again I'll *send* you my skin parcel post."

Mr. Brown nearly collapsed.

"Get out of here," he ordered. "You'll marry my girl over my dead body."

"Don't tempt me, you old buzzard."

"But, Dad—I love Harold, and Harold loves me."

"Aw—button yer lip."

Helen twisted her handkerchief. Mrs. Brown twiddled her thumbs. Mr. Brown gritted his phony teeth, and Harold wiggled his hips out the front door. The Inquisition was at an end. The victim had escaped.

* * * * *

BUT Mr. Brown was far from satisfied. His insults were not as sharply defined as they might have been. He must be slipping.

"That young punk got off too lightly," Mr Brown exploded. "I must be losing my grip. I used to be able to insult a person within one minute and twenty three seconds after meeting him. I worked on him for fifteen minutes."

Mr. Brown scratched his head.

"Matilda," he said, "how long did it take me to insult you after I met you?"

"About two seconds, with a crack about my hat."

"Ah—let's call it a night. I'm getting old."

THE END

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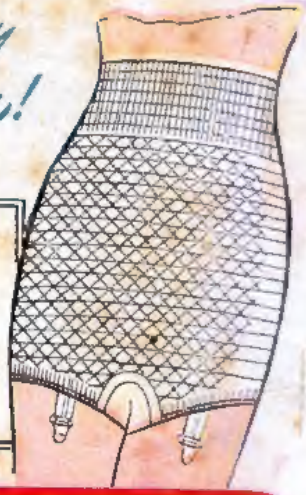

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LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT	ROBISON	2
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COULD THIS POSSIBLY BE ELEANORE CLAIRE? YES

of TRUE LOVE SECRETS #3

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